

St. James Presbyterian Church

May 21, 2017

Lector

Steps leading up the the Areopagus in Athens. Photo by Leon Mauldin.

St. James Presbyterian Church

Order for Worship

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

A Time for Gathering and Quiet Meditation

Please silence electronic devices at this time. Prayer Cards, located in the pew pockets, can be filled out and passed to an Usher or placed in the offering plate. If you desire, check the appropriate line on the prayer card and your prayer will be shared during worship. We use two song books. The purple hymnal, called Glory to God is abbreviated GTG. The black book, entitled The Faith We Sing, is abbreviated FWS.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please pass the Friendship Pads in the pews, place your name on the sheet, and note who is in the pew with you so that you can greet them after the service.

Choral Introit

“We Sing to You, O God”

*Call to Worship

Sue Smith, Lector

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Blessed is God, who hears our prayers,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship God.

*Hymn of Praise

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #12 GTG

Call to Confession

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Living God, we confess

that we look for the living among the dead.

We are foolish and slow to believe

the promise of the prophets.

**Please stand as you are able.*

**We are frightened and full of doubt,
even when you stand among us.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Open our hearts to receive your word,
and feed us with the bread of life,
the life that death cannot destroy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Children come forward during the response for the Time with Children

***Response to Words of Forgiveness** "Glory Be to the Father" #581 GTG

Time with Children

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

In the spirit of the first believers,
with glad and generous hearts,
let us share our goods in common
and contribute to the needs of the poor.

Offertory

**Please stand as you are able.*

***Doxology** "For the Life That You Have Given" #717 GTG

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
Give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Great God, to you we give our thanks;
your steadfast love endures forever.
With gratitude we bring our gifts to you.
Bless us and our gifts,
that our lives and our resources
may be a source of healing and hope,
of joy and justice in our world.

Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Risen Christ,
you show us the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy. Speak to us now
as the Scripture is read and proclaimed, that we may know your presence
and be filled with gladness
in our hearts.

Amen.

First Lesson

Psalm 66:8-20 (pg. 528 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

"Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" (arr. Hayes)
Duo Piano: Jenny Sue LeSchander & Melany Armstrong

Second Lesson

Acts 17:22-31 (pg. 137 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Our Religious Impulse" The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

***Hymn of Response** "Come Down, O Love Divine" #282 GTG

Joys and Concerns (Read from Prayer Cards.)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!" #804 GTG

***Benediction**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Let us share signs of God's peace.

Postlude

As our worship concludes, our service begins.

We invite you to join us for coffee and cookies in the Horizon Room, adjacent to the Narthex, overlooking the bay.

Please introduce yourself to those new to you and extend the hand of peace, friendship and welcome to everyone.

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lector

Sue Smith

Music Director

Carolyn Mullen

Coffee Hour

Deacons

Ushers

Adam Beaty

Bill Butler

Barbara Harnden

Organist/Pianist

Melany Armstrong

Sacristan

Carla Shafer

Sound System

Peter Burkland

Flowers

Cheryl McGregor

**Please stand as you are able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Melany We are grateful for our longtime organist, Melany Armstrong, who will be retiring from our staff in June. We will miss her talented fingers, but we are excited for her to enter a chapter of life here in Bellingham. Melany's last Sunday will be June 4 and there will be a reception to celebrate her following the service, in the Horizon Room.

Pentecost Sunday is June 4th - Come celebrate, and "WEAR YOUR COLORS!" Dress up in the colors of your nationality, favorite sports team, military association, or whatever is important to you. Of course red for Pentecost is always good too! We will be a joyous palette of the Holy Spirit!

Parish Walks with Pastor Seth Walk the neighborhood this Spring/Summer with Pastor Seth. Join Seth for a leisurely stroll around the South Hill and Fairhaven neighborhoods, enjoying the fresh air and listening for God's call to us as a church deeply rooted in this part of town. We will walk for up to an hour, at a very easy pace. Groups of 1-4 are welcome, but we can do more! Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Contact Seth if you have questions.

The Grief Support group is held bi-monthly at 10am on the first and third Mondays in the Lounge. The next meeting will be June 5.

The nursery for children birth through 3 years of age is located downstairs at the south end of the building.

Church school is available from children pre-school through 5th grade.

Today in Sunday School Called Alongside. Focus scripture: John 14: 15-21. Children learn about the comforting presence of God. Adults can talk about actions that cause stress, such as bullying, pushing, or grabbing toys, while creating a safe environment for children.

Children of all ages are welcome throughout the service to worship with their families. Kid Packs are available in the Kids' Cupboard in the Narthex. Please see an Usher for details.

ONE SPIRIT — BELLINGHAM CHURCHES UNITY SERVICE, MAY 28!

We are pleased to be participating in this year's area-wide church unity service at Bellingham High School, 2020 Cornwall Ave., at 10am on May 28, the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Saint James will join in this service of blended worship, with preaching by Dr. Darrell Johnson. This is a chance for us to embody our practices of belonging and acceptance of the many streams of churches in our area, worshipping One God together! ***Please note: there will be no worship service here at St. James on the 28th.***

We will be arranging rides and parking information for anyone who needs it. Please contact Natasha with any questions you have at office@saintjamespres.org or 360-733-1325. As well, an offering will be taken to support the Lighthouse Mission and a peanut butter drive to support the Bellingham Food Bank. Please bring a jar of peanut butter to the worship service!

All ages are invited and welcome at worship. Nursery care available for children up to 3 years old and Sunday school for children up to 6 years old.

Want to plug in? Be an usher! Meet at the school at 9am for training.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life with an Offering intended to nurture the faith of those newest among us. The **Pentecost Offering on June 4** helps our youth begin life with a strong start. Learn more about the offering in your June *Pulse*.

We are seeking a part time Church Accompanist/Organist, 3-6 Hours per week (hourly). If you or someone you know are interested, contact office@saintjamespres.org with cover letter and resume.

Sign up for **SPRING DINNERS FOR 8!** Congregational Life encourages you to participate in this opportunity to get to know others in our congregation around the dinner table. Hosts are always needed! If you are able to host (in your own home, at church or in a different location) please indicate so on the sign-up sheet. The sign-up sheet is in the Horizon Room.

LOOKING AHEAD

This Week at St. James (May 21-May 27)

TODAY	11:45am Deacons
Monday	5:15pm Tai Chi 7pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday	10:15am Yoga 10:30am Women's Bible Study 12pm Women's Luncheon 4pm Cross-fit 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
Wednesday	11:15am Tai Chi 12:15pm Chair Tai Chi 12:30pm Parish Walk
Thursday	10:15am Yoga 2pm Memorial Service for Norman Graham 4pm Cross-fit 5:30pm Worship Committee
Friday	3pm Membership Committee
Saturday	9am Pet Partners

Next Sunday

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE!

10am Special Worship at Bellingham High School

12 Step Programs

AA Men's Book Study Group: 7pm Mondays

Al Anon: 5:30pm Tuesdays

AA SOS Men's Group: 6pm Wednesdays

AA Fairhaven Group: 7:30pm Thursdays and Sundays

OA: 10am Saturdays

Bayside Co-op Preschool Information (360-733-3972)

Hawthorne Learning Solutions Contact Matt and Emily Hawthorne at hlearningsolutions@gmail.com for times and dates.

St. James Presbyterian Church
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