



December 16, 2018

 **St. James**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

St. James Presbyterian Church

Order for Worship

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

A TIME FOR GATHERING AND QUIET MEDITATION

Welcome. We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. Please fill out our Friendship Pad, located at the end of your pew, so we can get to know you. Prayer cards are also available in the pew pockets. If you would like to have your prayer shared in worship, please fill out the card and hand it to an usher during the Passing of the Peace.

We worship using a variety of liturgy, printed in your bulletin, and two song books: the purple hymnal called Glory to God (GTG) and the black book, The Faith We Sing (FWS). Please silence electronic devices before the service.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Mike and Sue Smith

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord promised, in days to come..
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Smith, Lector

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Trust and do not be afraid.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High” #113 GTG

**Please stand as you are able.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

As John the Baptist called the people to repent,
as Jesus calls us now,
we turn to the one who is both judge and Savior,
trusting that repentance opens the door to new life,
and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us.
Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God,
we confess that we need repentance.
We have broken your commands against idolatry.
We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.
We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.
Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,
for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news
and for the sake of all the world. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO GODLY PLAY

Tracy Caruso

THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Please pass prayer cards to an usher

THE OTHER SIX DAYS

Christian Beaty

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Word, you are our guide and ultimate assurance.
By your Holy Spirit, open us to your promises and commands
and shower us again with the fire of your love. **Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg. 877 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Please stand as you are able.*

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Waiting for a King" - Martin
St. James Chancel Choir

SERMON READING

Luke 3:7-18 (pg. 60 in pew Bible)

SERMON

"Experience God's Touch: Advent Week III"
The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice" #82 GTG

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed (p. 35) GTG

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us bring to God our offerings,
with thanksgiving that God provides
more than enough for all.

Let us give as each is able, for the benefit
of Christ's church and God's world.

OFFERTORY

***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**

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Please stand as you are able.*

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; and 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.

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" #136 GTG

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

*BLESSING & CHARGE

POSTLUDE

As our worship concludes, so our service begins.

We invite you to join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Horizon Room, to your right as you leave the sanctuary, overlooking the bay.

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

Godly Play: Advent III

This lesson helps children continue to prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. In the Advent lessons, we move toward Bethlehem guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the Magi until we arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle. This week's lesson focuses on the shepherds.

Bringing Godly Play Home: Ask your student about the importance of the pink candle.

Youth Change Drive: Throughout Advent, students will be collecting change to raise money for *Feed My Starving Children*. Donations may be brought in through December 30.

Toddler Time

Starting January 9, Toddler Time will be held on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:00am for ages 4yrs old and younger. Too wet and cold for the park? Come join us in the St. James Fellowship Hall for an open playtime. Parents have a chance to socialize with other parents and enjoy free coffee while their children play. This is a free, unstructured playtime; while it will be staffed, parents/guardians must be present at all times. We provide a few toys but feel free to bring your own to share.

St. James' Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Monday, December 24th from 7:00-8:30pm. Please take invitations to share with friends, family, and neighbors.

Angel Tree: Please bring your items to the church today to wrap and deliver the gifts. If you wish to make a donation instead, please note "Angel Tree" on payment.

St. James Book Club will be meeting on Monday, December 17 at 7:00pm. If interested, please contact Alice Beaty.

Church Directory Update

The Membership committee is updating the contact information information listed in the church directory. Please email the church office (office@saintjamespres.org) with any changes or updates, or to be added to our directory.

Church Pianist/Accompanist. We seeking to hire someone for ongoing support of the music program at St. James. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact Carolyn Mullen at zolvavn@gmail.com with a cover letter and resume.

LOOKING AHEAD

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES December 17 - December 23

Monday, 12/17	10:00am Grief Support Group 4:00pm St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Boy Scout
Tuesday, 12/18	10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
Wednesday, 12/19	
Thursday, 12/20	10:15am Yoga 6:30pm St. James Bell Choir 7:30pm St. James Choir
Friday, 12/21	4:00pm St. James Fitness
Saturday, 12/22	
Next Sunday, 12/23	9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship

PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

12 STEP PROGRAMS:

- AA Men's Book Study Group:** 6:30pm, Mondays
- Al Anon:** 5:30pm, Tuesdays
- AA SOS Men's Group:** 6:00pm, Wednesdays
- AA Fairhaven Group:** 7:15pm, Thursdays and Sundays
- OA:** 10:00am, 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.

THE SAINT JAMES STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
pastor@saintjamespres.org

Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso
Ministry Assistant: Kate Hoskin
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Music Director: Carolyn Mullen
Teachers: Erika Singh-Cundy, Sophie Rose Kendrick,
Lucy Sieczka, Holly Jones

St. James Presbyterian Church

910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 733-1325, office@saintjamespres.org
www.saintjamespres.org

Give to Saint James Online:
<https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-2:00pm

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lector: Sue Smith
Sacristan: Carolyn Mullen
Head Usher: Robb McGregor
Coffee Hour: Deacons

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

