



December 23, 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

Carolyn Mullen

#### INTROIT

“From the East the Donkey Came” arr. Moglebust  
St. James Bell Choir

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Kyle, Lindsay, Rory,  
& Max Anderson

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord promised, in days to come..

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child.

**She shall bear a son,  
and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kyle Anderson, Lector

Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

**He shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

**God's mercy extends from generation to generation.**

**Holy is God's name!**

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #119 GTG

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

In the world, and in this season, there are many claims on our lives. We take this time to remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ will all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.  
Though we have heard Mary's song,  
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.  
Though we know your story,  
we resist the costs of following you.  
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.  
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.  
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for justice you intend.  
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.  
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. 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*

### **MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Ray Dellecker

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Is Your Heart Prepared for a King" - Lau  
St. James Chancel Choir

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

O Mighty One, who scatters the proud and fills the hungry, by your Holy Spirit let your word leap in us and bring to our yearning the joy that comes with new beginnings and renewed lives. **Amen.**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a (pg. 865 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CHORAL ANTHEM

"Christmas Lullaby" - Rutter  
St. James Chancel Choir

### SERMON READING

Luke 1:46-55 (pg. 57 in pew Bible)

### SERMON

"Savor God's Presence: Advent Week IV"  
The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE** "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" #100 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

### OFFERTORY

"Prince of Peace" arr. Ingram  
St. James Bell Choir

### \*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

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. **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

"The First Nowell" #147 GTG

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

## \*BLESSING & CHARGE

## POSTLUDE

Randy Bowers

*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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

# Merry Christmas!

May Christ's peace fill your hearts and homes this season.



## **Godly Play: Advent IV**

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

**Bringing Godly Play Home:** Ask your student about the Magi's journey.

**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, Todder 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.

## **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](mailto: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 [zolhavn@gmail.com](mailto:zolhavn@gmail.com) a with a cover letter and resume.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES**  
December 24 - December 30

- Monday, 12/24**      *Christmas Eve*  
5:15pm Tai Chi  
7:00 Christmas Eve Candelight Service
- Tuesday, 12/25**      *Christmas Day*  
7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
- Wednesday, 12/26**
- Thursday, 12/27**      10:15am Yoga
- Friday, 12/28**      4:00pm St. James Fitness
- Saturday, 12/29**
- Next Sunday, 12/30**      *No Adult Bible Study*  
10:30am Worship

\*\*\*\*\*

*Church offices will be closed 12/25/-1/1/.  
Sunday worship on 12/30 at 10:30am as normal; Adult Bible Study  
will resume 1/6 at 9:30am.*

**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](mailto: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: Kyle Anderson  
Sacristan: Carolyn Mullen  
Head Usher: Jean Seater  
Coffee Hour: Deacons

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

