



December 9, 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 Dave and Pat Nelson, Kenzie Clark

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord promised, in days to come...

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,

and a little child shall lead them.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jenny Sue LeSchander, Lector

John came out of the wilderness

to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

Make straight the paths we now walk

and prepare the way of God's reign of justice and love.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" #107 GTG

CALL TO CONFESSION

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us

and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets
and we have not listened.**

**We have not always determined what is best
or made way for your reign
in our lives, our church, and our society.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

INVITATION TO GODLY PLAY

THE PEACE

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

And also with you.

Please pass prayer cards to an usher

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit
instruct us by the light of your prophets.

Illuminate our hearts, that we may hear your call
to become your path into the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4 (pg. 889-890 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Every Valley" - John Ness Beck
St. James Chancel Choir

SERMON READING

Luke 3:1-6 (pg. 60 in pew Bible)

SERMON

"Hear God Calling: Advent Week II"
The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

**Please stand as you are able.*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #82 GTG

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Alice Bailey and Marilyn Horn

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The Apostles' Creed (p. 35) GTG

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We are called by God to present a harvest of righteousness—
not by virtue of our own works,
but by the grace of the one who began a good work in us,
and is even now bringing it to completion.
Let us bring the offerings of our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

Randy Bowers

***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**

God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude,
the offerings of our lives.
Purify them with your refining fire
so that they may serve your purposes
and shine with your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.**

**Please stand as you are able.*

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.

Congregational Meeting Today: Join us immediately after service for a brief meeting where we will hear a report from the Nominating Committee and elect church officers for the upcoming year.

Godly Play: *Advent II*

The lessons in our Advent series help children prepare for the mystery of Christmas. Each week, we will move closer to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus, represented by the lighting of the Christ Candle. This week's lesson focuses on the Holy Family.

Bringing Godly Play Home:

Ask your student about the trip to Bethlehem. Throughout Advent, students will be collecting change to raise money for *Feed My Starving Children*. Donations may be brought in through December 30.

Angel Tree: Please bring your items to the church no later than Sunday, December 16 when we will gather 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.

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Arts and Crafts will be meeting Monday, December 10 at 10:00am in the Horizon Room.

Presbyterian Women: All women are invited to join in the Bible study Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 11:00am and the luncheon at 12:30pm. The Bible study, published by Horizons' *God's Promise--I Am With You*, will focus on Lesson Four, "God With Us When We Seek God". The primary scriptures are 1 Chronicles 28:1-21; and 1 Kings 11:1-13, 29-39. The potluck salad luncheon begins at 12:30 in the Horizon Room.

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.

Ladies Night Out will be a Christmas ornament exchange at Alice Beaty's: 3260 Agate Heights Rd. at 7:00pm on December 14 (alice_beaty@msn.com). Please bring a wrapped ornament (\$10 or less). Be prepared to beg and steal! Jill Hoyt (jillz19@yahoo.com) is arranging carpools. Remember, the more the merrier!

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 zolphavn@gmail.com with a cover letter and resume.

LOOKING AHEAD

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES December 10 - December 16

Monday	10:00am Arts & Crafts 4:00pm St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 6:00pm YANA 7:00pm Boy Scouts
Tuesday	10:15am Yoga 11:00am Pres. Women Bible Study & Luncheon 6:00pm Bayside Parent Meetings 7:00pm Bhm Community Chorus 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
Wednesday	10:00am Worship Committee
Thursday	10:15am Yoga 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm St. James Choir
Friday	4:00pm St. James Fitness
Saturday	Bayside Preschool Co-op Open House 9:30am Weavers Guild 2:00pm Bhm Comm. Chorus: <i>The Gift of Community</i> 7:00pm Bhm Comm. Chorus: <i>The Gift of Community</i>
Next Sunday	9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:45am Deacons

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: Jenny Sue LeSchander
Sacristan: Carolyn Mullen
Head Usher: Martha Speer
Coffee Hour: Deacons

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

