



January 6, 2019

 **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

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jenny Sue LeSchander, Lector

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

**Proclaim God's praise among the nations.**

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright” #152 GTG

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

In the light of Christ,

we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts.

Trusting in God's grace,

let us confess our sins before God and one another.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. 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*

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Spirit of God, in the proclamation of your Word, reveal to us the hidden mystery of your love in Christ, and strengthen our faith that we may approach you with boldness. **Amen.**

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Isaiah 60:1-6 (pg. 690 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Star of the Morning" - Vader & Aspinall  
St. James Chancel Choir

### **SERMON READING**

Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 2 in pew Bible)

### **SERMON**

"The Light Shines Through"  
The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"We Three Kings" #151 GTG

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed (p. 34 GTG)

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

#### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

God intends to unite all creation, so that all may share in the promises of God's new reign. Therefore with gratitude and joy, let us render tributes and bring gifts, for we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ.

#### **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**

Glorious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his radiant light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. **Amen.**

#### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts.

**We open them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**It is right to lift up thanks and praise.**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE INVITATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### WELCOME TO THE TABLE

"The body of Christ, given for you." **Amen.**

"The blood of Christ, shed for you." **Amen.**

### COMMUNION PRAYER

#### 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

"Arise, Your Light Is Come!" #744 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.*

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#### **Annual Meeting**

We will hold our annual congregational meeting on January 27 following worship. The meeting will be to approve the St. James Session adopted budgets and terms of call for Pastor Seth. All are welcome to attend to hear reports of God's faithfulness in our ministry--looking back on 2018 and into the year ahead.

**Annual Reports** are due! Committee chairs and elders, please complete and submit your annual reports by Wednesday, January 9 as we are beginning to compile them for our January 27 annual meeting.

## **Godly Play: The Magi**

In this lesson we remember the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. We will recall together all the weeks in Advent as we had before Christmas but give special attention to the final purple candle, the one that represents the 3 Kings. We will stop here and pay attention to what the three gifts were and what they symbolize as gifts for a baby who is the Messiah.

**Bringing Godly Play Home:** Wonder with your student about the gifts the Magi brought and what those gifts would look like today.

## **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.

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

## **Presbyterian Women**

The women of the church will meet Tuesday, January 22, for the monthly Bible study at 10:30 a.m. and luncheon at noon. This month's luncheon will be soup and bread, provided by the hostesses.

## **St. James Book Club**

Our selection for the January 21 meeting is *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave. The library book kits will be kept in the office. Grab a book and join us at 7:00pm!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

January 7 - January 13

<b>Monday, 1/7</b>	10:00am Grief Support Group 4:00 St. James Fitness 5:15pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Boy Scouts
<b>Tuesday, 1/8</b>	9:00am Personnel 10:15am Yoga 5:30pm Building & Grounds 6:00pm Finance 6:30pm Bayside Co-op Parent Meetings 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
<b>Wednesday, 1/9</b>	8:30am Toddler Time
<b>Thursday, 1/10</b>	10:15am Yoga 6:30pm St. James Bell Choir 7:30pm St. James Choir
<b>Friday, 1/11</b>	4:00pm St. James Fitness
<b>Saturday, 1/12</b>	1:00pm Bellingham Ukulele Group
<b>Next Sunday, 1/13</b>	9:30 Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Session

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### 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

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### **PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Lector: Jenny Sue LeSchander  
Sacristan: Jenny Sue LeSchander  
Head Usher: Bill Read  
Coffee Hour: Deacons  
Communion Servers: Laurie Anderson,  
Alice Beaty, Mark Beaty, Randy Bowers

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

