



November 18, 2018



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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING WORDS

Jim Gresham, Lector

Let our hearts exult in the Lord;

our strength is exalted in God.

Let our mouths be ever fixed in praise;

God has given us the victory.

There is no Holy One like the Lord;

there is no Rock like our God.

Praise the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"How Firm a Foundation" #463 GTG

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the grace of God,

let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, who is faithful and just,

we have failed to help those who have little

while we have so much.

We are boastful and haughty,

and fail to appreciate the gifts you have given.

Our arrogance has led us away from your righteous way.

Forgive us, Merciful God,

and lead us to a humble path, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Please stand as you are able.*

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

People of God, the Lord has given us so much.

Let us praise the Lord through our gifts
for the uplift of God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY

Pat Nelson

***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**

Dear God, we offer these gifts back to you.
Multiply them so that they might help
establish your kingdom here on earth.
All glory, praise, and honor are due to you,
now and forever. **Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, speak your Word to us,
and guide our feet, that we might be hearers
and doers of your word. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (pg. 245 in pew Bible)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Please stand as you are able.*

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Total Praise” (Smallwood, arr. Raney)
St. James Chancel Choir

SERMON READING

Mark 13:1-8 (pg. 50 in pew Bible)

SERMON

“Clearing the Table: Rethinking Thanksgiving”
The Rev. Seth J. Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” #654 GTG

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles’ Creed (pg. 35) GTG

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD’S AMBASSADORS

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

“Lead Me, Guide Me” #740 GTG

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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.*

**Please stand as you are able.*

Weekly Prayer Practice

For the Week of November 18, 2018

The following is a simple prayer practice that can be used at home or work throughout your week. Included is a short prayer to root you in God's presence, followed by guided pauses that invite you to speak of what is on your heart. The practice closes with the Lord's Prayer.

Scripture texts for the upcoming week's worship at St. James Presbyterian are also included for daily reading and reflection.

Prayer for the Week

God, in your mercy you hear our cries
and know the hidden desires of our hearts.

You answer prayer.

We come to you, gracious Lord,
praying for ourselves and our community.

Guided Pauses

People of God, for what do you

Know Gratitude...

Know Longing...

Cry in Lament...

Seek Forgiveness...

Hold Hope...

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.

Next Week's Scriptures

First Reading: Revelation 1:4b-9

Sermon Reading: John 18:33-37

Godly Play: The Exile and Return

In today's story, the Babylonians capture Jerusalem and take God's People into exile. Even though this journey is forced on them, they make an astonishing discovery: God's presence is not limited to one place; God is also with them in a foreign and strange land. God's presence is not here or there, but everywhere, waiting to be found and to *find us*.

Bringing Godly Play Home:

Discuss where you travel and the places you go in everyday life. Where are some of your favorite places to pray? Where do you find God and where does God find you?

Arts & Crafts group will be meeting on Mon, November 26 at 10:00am in the Horizon Room. We will be focusing on holiday card-making.

Bake Sale: The St. James Presbyterian Women will be participating in the Christmas Market at *Winterfest* on Sat, Nov. 24 from 12:00-5:00pm. If you would like to donate baked items please contact Merry Thomas.

Interfaith Coalition invites you to attend **Hope-Filled Dreams** on Sun, Nov. 18 at 2:30 pm at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship.

Advent Wreath Lighting: We are looking for families or groups to light the candles on our Advent Wreath during the month of December. All are welcome to participate. Contact Jill Hoyt or Pastor Seth if interested.

St. James Book Club will be meeting on Mon, Nov. 19 at 7:00pm. If interested, please contact Alice Beaty.

Christmas Wreaths are for sale at St. James to support *Feed My Starving Children*. Large wreaths are \$25.00 and medium wreaths are \$20.00. Please reserve your wreath on the sign-up board in the Horizon Room.

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 cover letter and resume.

LOOKING AHEAD

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES November 19 - November 25

- Monday** 10:00am Grief Support Group
 5:15pm Tai Chi
 7:00pm St. James Book Club
 7:00pm Boy Scouts
- Tuesday** 10:15am Yoga
 4:15pm St. James Fitness
 7:00pm Bhm Community Chorus
 7:30pm WA Gender Alliance
- Wednesday**
- Thursday** HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
- Friday**
- Saturday** 12:00pm Bake Sale at Fairhaven Winterfest
- Next Sunday** 9:00am Adult Bible Study
 9:00am Membership Class
 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: Jim Gresham
Sacristan: Faye Hill
Head Usher: Robb McGregor
Coffee Hour: Deacons
Flowers: Gretchen Pfueller

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

