

How Long, O Lord?

Christ's peace be with you,

We continue to witness unrest in our nation and around our world. We are confused and worried about the future. We feel defeated, as if there is no way forward, no clear path beyond all that we face. We mourn the death of George Floyd and all the black bodies lost too soon to injustice that he represents. We mourn the hundreds of thousands of lives lost to the coronavirus and the despair and uncertainty they represent.

In our despair, we want to find words to address all that is not right. We want to speak up, we want to have answers, we want to run to hope. And yet, if you're like me, it feels like so often you have nothing to say, no words to adequately soothe the pain.



In times like these, I am grateful for the language of lament, the language of the Psalms, the language of God's people who have lived through times of tumult and great upheaval.

If you have no words for today, no answers, then I encourage you to turn to the Psalms in prayer. Littered throughout the book of prayers and praises, there are numerous Psalms of grief and longing. These Psalms of Lament give us language when we have no words, speak truth when we cannot. Psalms 44, 60, 74, 79, 80, 85, and 90 are traditionally regarded as the Psalms of communal lament for the people of God.

Today, I am sharing with you Psalm 90, for your prayer, reflection, and lament. We pray, "Turn, O Lord! How long?"

Psalm 90: God's Eternity and Human Frailty

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3 You turn us back to dust and say, "Turn back, you mortals." 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. 5 You sleep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; 6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. 7 For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath, we are overwhelmed. 8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. 9 For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. 10 The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. 11 Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. 12 So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. 13 Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. 15 Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. 16 Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. 17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O Prosper the work of our hands!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Thomas".

Rev. Seth Thomas

MAY FINANCE UPDATE

By Lindsay Anderson, Finance Chair



Each week, as our commitment to ‘Stay Home, Stay Healthy’ has continued, we are called to a deeper trust in God, with all areas of our lives - including our finances. And, with that trust comes a great deal of discernment as to what is best given our particular circumstances, whatever those may be. This is true for us as a Session, as a worshipping community, and for us individually. Our Session, the Finance Committee, and the Church Staff are thankful for the ways God continues to sustain us - we communicate regularly about how to best steward our resources during this time.

Following is an update on Saint James Year to Date General Operating Budget. A few highlights:

- Year to date, our income is still ahead of expenses!
- Since we have moved to ‘Church At Home Together’ overall pledges are less than what we projected pre-pandemic.
- Online giving has increased.
- The Presbyterian Board of Pensions is providing relief money to offset our monthly payments for a brief period. As well, Northwest Coast Presbytery is providing grants for some of the technology updates that have helped us make the move to online church services.

As of 4-30-2020	April 2020	CURRENT BUDGET	YR TO DATE	YR TO DATE BUDGET
Income	\$15,722	\$20,465	\$90,571	\$91,020
Expenses	\$20,118	\$23,404	\$84,865	\$90,725

It is not surprising that a global pandemic would impact giving, whether that be due to personal circumstances, getting used to new routines, or an expectation that we would have returned to in-person worship by now. Thank you for your continued support if you are able.

(Finance Committee continues)

While we are worshipping at home during this time you can to give in TWO primary ways:

1. **Online Giving:** You can give a one-time gift or create a recurring monthly pledge. Please visit this webpage to set up or update your online giving here: <https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

If you are new to online giving we've got a handy video to show you how, here:

<https://www.loom.com/share/5aea350026204a9cb3c955029dafbdd3>

2. **Mail-In Donations:** You can mail your pledges and gifts to the church. Please note that though the church office will be closed, mail will be checked regularly.

Saint James Presbyterian Church
910 14th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

By Tracy Caruso, Children & Family Ministry Director

Greetings from the Director of Children and Family Ministries! What a spring it has been. As we move into June and closer to summer we are working on how to make a new normal. How do we do summer without baseball games, fairs, fireworks, church picnics, and the hardest for me, vacation bible school and our all church retreat? We are working on it and I hope you all are adjusting too.

I want to thank everyone - kids, parents, and others for your participation in Godly Play and your support for our program. I love hearing and receiving responses from both kids and adults and love hearing from adults who are getting to experience Godly Play for the first time.



Our youth group continues to meet weekly on Thursdays at 3 pm. We are having a great time connecting and playing games. We are also working on plans for our bed race bed for when we are able to participate in that event. If anyone wants to contribute your building skills when we are back together and are building our bed, please let Tracy know!

As announced last month we have decided to postpone our annual Vacation Bible School to next summer. This summer I will be using the Illustrated Ministry digital VBS program to create a 5-week summer program for our kids to participate in. Look for more information to follow and let Tracy know if you and your family would like to participate.

St. James Session has made the difficult decision to postpone this year's all church retreat, originally scheduled for August, to next summer. More information about next year's retreat to come.

As always if you have any questions, or need anything, please don't hesitate to contact Tracy. I miss you all so much and can't wait to be able to see you all in person! Tracy Caruso tracy@saintjamespres.org.

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Godly Play Schedule for June

- **June 7th The Circle of the Holy Eucharist**

This is another lesson in the series developing themes in the Holy Eucharist. It helps students pull together the sequence of liturgical actions and images from the Godly Play presentations they have seen and from their church's Sunday celebration. We will go deeper and look at our current Sunday celebrations in comparison to the original and "normal" Sunday celebrations.

- **June 14th Paul's Discovery**

This lesson presents the story of Paul's discovering the power of the Holy Spirit. This week we will look at the first 4 scenes from Paul's life.

- **June 21st Paul's Discovery (cont.)**

This lesson presents the story of Paul's discovering the power of the Holy Spirit. This week we will look at the final 3 scenes from Paul's life.

- **June 28th The Holy Trinity**

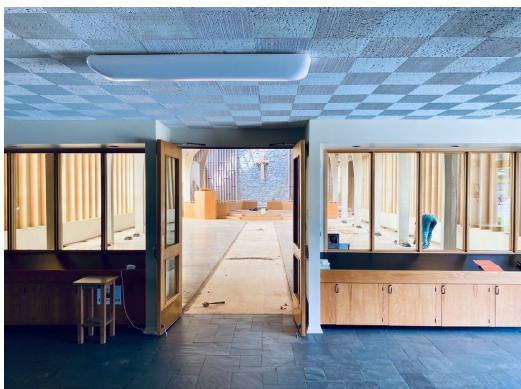
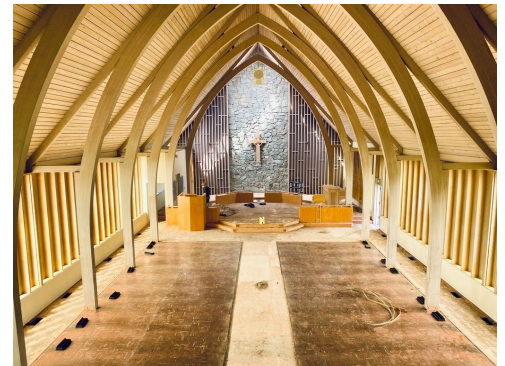
This lesson combines 3 narratives, transforming them into the concept of the Holy Trinity



ST. JAMES BUILDING CLOSED

The St. James Presbyterian church building is CLOSED due to the COVID-19 statewide mandates. Please do not access the church building unless you have permission from the committee or staff members.

In addition to the social distancing mandate, the sanctuary is undergoing renovations. While the building is undergoing essential renovations all of the door codes for staff and groups will be updated.



All activities have moved to online venues. If you haven't already please connect with your committee or group leader to find your group online. Contact pastor@saintjamespres.org for more information. Thank you for your patience.

SPECIAL FEATURE: LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Sheltering in Place at Chickadee House, by Janet Oakley

On the days when I wake up and wonder if it is Frinesday or Maturday, I step outside and listen for my chickadees. Sheltering in place hasn't been too hard for me. Though I see a few friends in person and shop carefully, I am more connected with friends than ever through Zoom. We talk about our writing, catch up on choral pieces, and go to church. I even do chair yoga faithfully every week on Zoom.

But it is my backyard and the antics of chickadees that sustains me the most.



Chickadees have always been a favorite bird of mine. Their chattering calls and explosive dashes around the bird feeder can't help but make me smile. I watch for them all the time, chuckling at their upside-down approach to gathering seeds in the cherry tree or fending off more aggressive birds around the yellow birdhouse they have claimed as their own. There is something uplifting about these black-capped characters. Like they have no cares in the world, they go about their business in a world that sometimes seems dark. They live in the now and the Present.


I'm expanding my garden (deer-proofing) and clearing the weeds in the side gardens. New fencing is going up next to the birdhouse where my chickadees are tending to their tiny chicks. They don't seem to mind about the racket as we put in the wired sections in, but celebrate the new places to pause and sit. As friends join the garden scene—a chirpy Brewick wren and his brood—I am reminded that in this garden with my chickadee friends, there is hope.



Photo credit: a Black-capped Chickadee


ST. JAMES STAFF IS AT YOUR SERVICE

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Children & Family Ministry Director: Tracy Caruso
Worship & Music Leader: Dylan Cisneros
Accompanist: Luke Arnold
Treasurer: Marina McLeod
Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws
Nursery: Claire Alarid, Tova Breen, Fiona Dent,
Frankie Morrissey, Lucy Sieczka



SESSION

Moderator: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas
Clerk of Session: Mark Beaty
Building & Grounds: Aaron Caruso
Christian Faith Formation: Sarah Condreay
Finance & Stewardship: Lindsay Anderson
Membership & Congregation Life: Susan Diemont-Conwell
Mission & Social Action: Carol Dellecker
Nominating: Jenny Sue LeSchander & Sarah Condreay
Personnel: Faye Hill
Trustees: Sarah Condreay, Mark Beaty, Aaron Caruso
Worship & Music: Nebiyu Tesfa



DEACONS

Moderator: Alice Beaty
Marlene Amman, Alice Beaty, Adam Beaty, Pam Gibson
Julie Keyes, Valerie McBeth, Rick Seater, Jean Seater, Carla Shafer

Worship Schedule- Join us for streaming service

9:00 a.m. Online Daily Prayer, Monday - Friday
10:30 a.m. Worship is a LIVE Service Stream from our website:

<https://saintjamespres.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

Join us for Daily Prayer with Rev. Seth Thomas

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86178414095>




















UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB IN JUNE

St. James Book Club is currently reading *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. We will be meeting Monday evening June 15th at 7:00pm via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us please email Tracy Caruso tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link.

THE OTHER EINSTEIN is the story of Einstein's wife, a brilliant physicist in her own right, whose contribution to the special theory of relativity is hotly debated and may have been inspired by her own profound and very personal insight. It offers us a window into a brilliant, fascinating woman whose light was lost in Einstein's enormous shadow.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

6/1	Alice Beaty	
6/3	Tracy Caruso	
6/4	Craig and Julie Keyes	
6/5	Barbara Harnden	
6/7	Eden Engels	
6/9	Jane Botsford	
6/9	Fred Dugert	
6/10	Terri Inge	
6/10	Zach Koehn	
6/12	Bob and Madeleine Smith	
6/15	Sue Smith	
6/16	Rob and Marilyn Monahan	
6/17	Mark and Alice Beaty	
6/19	Dick and Virginia Green	
6/20	Amber Wainscott	
6/23	Bob Smith	
6/25	Bob and Nancy Pace	
6/27	Corinna Bowers	
6/30	Claude and Faye Hill	

Deadlines for church publications

Weekly bulletin: Wednesday, 2:00pm

Weekly email: Thursday, 2:00pm

Monthly "The Pulse": the 20th, 2:00pm

ST. JAMES CALENDAR

All in-person church gatherings have been postponed until further notice. Committees and groups will be gathering online. Please contact your Committee Chairperson or Group Coordinator to find out more about current offerings and times.

→ PROGRAMS SHARING OUR FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group- Fellowship Hall

AA Men's Book Study Group- Horizon Room

AA SOS Men's Group- Horizon Room

Bellingham Com. Chorus- Fellowship Hall

Bellingham Ukulele Group- Fellowship Hall

Boy Scouts Troop 7- Fellowship Hall

Happy Hour AI Anon- Horizon Room

Overeaters Anonymous- Lounge

St. James Fitness- Fellowship Hall

Tai Chi- Fellowship Hall

WA Gender Alliance

Weavers Guild- Fellowship Hall

Yoga- Horizon Room

You Are Not Alone (YANA)- Lounge

Bayside Co-op Preschool

Hawthorne Learning Solutions

Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County



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