



## ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, September 27, 2020

"The Unfair Way of God" - Matthew 21:23-32 & Ezekiel 18:25-32

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### **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. We would love to connect with you and support you in this strange season.*

*Please visit [www.saintjamespres.org/contact](http://www.saintjamespres.org/contact) to share how we can be of support.*

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#### **PRELUDE**

Luke Arnold

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Seth Thomas

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Faye Hill, Lector

Listen, O people, to holy teaching;  
tune your ears to hear God's word.

**We gather to proclaim our sacred story,  
to tell of God's wondrous deeds.**

Come, O people, into holy space  
to worship the Lord, our sustainer and guide.

**Let us turn to God in prayer and praise.**

#### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" - GTG #87

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Rev. Seth Thomas

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving Lord, you desire that we have  
the same mind as Christ

and imitate his compassionate service.

But our minds are fixed on attitudes and ambitions  
that draw us away from you.

We labor for ourselves

and attend to the needs of a precious few  
before considering how our time and talents

could bless the world.  
We look up to the rich and famous  
and overlook the lowly  
rather than affirming the dignity of all.  
Transform us, we pray.  
By your grace, give us the same mind  
and the same love  
as our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and work within us  
until our actions bear witness  
to the faith our tongues confess. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

### **INVITATION TO GODLY PLAY**

Tracy Caruso, Claire Alarid

### **THE PEACE**

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

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

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Faye Hill

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Ezekiel 18:25-32

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **SERMON READING**

Matthew 21:23-32

### **SERMON**

"The Unfair Way of God"  
Rev. Seth Thomas

### **HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"At the Name of Jesus" - GTG #264

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

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

## **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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

"Notturmo", Ottorino Respighi  
Luke Arnold

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"Fairest Lord Jesus" - GTG #630

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

### **BLESSING & CHARGE**

Rev. Seth Thomas

### **POSTLUDE**

Luke Arnold

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*As our worship concludes, our service begins.*

*We invite you to join us for fellowship in a chat room. Please introduce yourself to those new to you and extend the hand of peace, friendship, and welcome to everyone.*

**Next Week, October 4th: Rev. Kyle Anderson will be preaching  
Matthew 21:33-46 & Isaiah 5:1-7**

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## ST. JAMES STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)

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**ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN BUILDING IS CLOSED DUE TO THE  
CORVID-19 SHELTER IN PLACE STATEWIDE MANDATE. ALL  
ACTIVITIES HAVE MOVED TO ONLINE VENUES.  
CONTACT [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

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Give to St. James Online:

<https://saintjamespres.churchcenter.com/giving>

Stay current on activities and happenings [@saintjamespres](https://www.instagram.com/saintjamespres)



## **GODLY PLAY: CREATION**

With this lesson, we begin to trace the elusive presence of the mystery of God in the story of God's People. We begin to play Hide-and-Seek with the Holy One and ask, "What can we know of the Giver by the gift?"

## **BRING GODLY PLAY HOME**

The days of creation make an especially wonderful story to share during the week. For example, on the first day you can ask, "I wonder who saw the light today?" and on the second day ask, "I wonder who saw the water today?" When everyone has finished sharing you can give thanks to God for the gifts from creation you've enjoyed that day.

Day 1: Light. Day 2: Water. Day 3: Land and green growing things. Day 4: Day and night. Day 5: Creatures that fly and creatures that swim.

Day 6: Creatures that walk on the earth. Day 7: Rest.

Please send answers to the Wondering questions and pictures of the Creation story to [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts. This week, September 27th, the lectionary texts are:

Ezekial 18:25-32 (worship), Matthew 21:23-32 (preaching)

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Exodus 17:1-7, Philippians 2:1-13

## **RESCHEDULED SOCIAL TIME!**

Join us tomorrow evening Monday, September 28th. We will be hosting a Facebook Social Hour at 7:00. Come join in and see how everyone is doing. We will be trying out the Facebook meeting rooms for this and can be accessed through our St. James Facebook page.

## **BOOK STUDY FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER: I'M STILL HERE**

Join us for a Zoom book study on the topic of Race. We are reading Austin Channing Brown's, *I'm Still Here*. Pick up a copy and join us Sundays at 9:00AM on Zoom, using the Worship Service link to join early.

-September 27: Chapters 3, 4

-October 4: Chapters 5, 6, 7 (and interlude "Why I love being a black girl")

-October 11: Chapters 8, 9 (and interlude "How to survive racism in an organization that claims to be antiracist")

-October 18: Chapters 10, 11, 12 (and interlude "A letter to my son")

-October 25: Chapters 13, 14

## ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB FOR OCTOBER

St. James Book Club is currently reading Melinda Gates's *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World* "When you lift up women, you lift up everybody - families, communities, entire countries..." In her book, Melinda tells the stories of the inspiring people she's met through her work all over the world, digs into the data, and powerfully illustrates issues that need our attention.

We will be meeting Monday evening October 19th @ 7:00.

Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link.

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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**Attention: all church activities have moved to on-line forums where applicable. Contact your group leader for details.**

Next Sunday                      10:30am Streamed Sunday Worship Service  
<https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/>

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## PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

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**ALL GROUPS MEETING IN OUR BUILDING ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. CONTACT THE GROUP LEADER FOR ONLINE MEETING INFORMATION**

AA Fairhaven Group  
AA Men's Book Study Group  
AA SOS Men's Group  
AI-Anon  
Bellingham Community Chorus  
Overeaters Anon  
WA Gender Alliance  
You Are Not Alone (YANA)  
Bayside Co-op Preschool (back in session)  
Boy Scouts Troop 7  
Hawthorne Learning Solutions (back in session)  
Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County (back in the office)