



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Reign of Christ - Matthew 25:31-46 & Ezekiel 34:11-16

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 to share how we can be of support.

PRELUDE

Luke Arnold

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Seth Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lector, Tracy Caruso

"I will search for my sheep," says the Lord.

**Like lost lambs or scattered sheep,
the Lord seeks us and calls us home.**

"I will gather them from far and near," says the Lord.

**A cherished fold, a beloved flock,
the Lord sustains us and gives us rest.**

"I will be their shepherd," says the Lord.

**We listen for the voice of the God who seeks us,
and follow with devotion and gratitude!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" - GTG #268

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Seth Thomas

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,
who has compassion for the lost and the least,
in disbelief and denial, we ask:
"When did we see you among us?"

**We should have seen you
in the classmate on the playground
whom we did not invite to join our game.
Or in the stranger on the sidewalk
whom we crossed the street to avoid.
Or in the neighbor at the nursing home,
whom we left to carry her pain alone.
We should have seen you
in the man begging for work or a warm meal,
in the woman struggling to overcome addiction,
in the child seeking refuge from the terrors of violence.
But, instead, we turned away.**

**Forgive us, Lord.
Break our hearts for what breaks yours,
and give us compassion and courage
to respond to the suffering of this world. 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.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Tracy Caruso

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON "Glory to Christ: Love, Serve, and Witness" - Reign of Christ
Rev. Seth Thomas

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"
GTG #263

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

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

"Goin' Up to Glory", St. James Virtual Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Joy to the World!"- GTG #134

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

BLESSING & CHARGE

Rev. Seth Thomas

POSTLUDE

Luke Arnold

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, November 29th
Advent: The Weary World Rejoices
A Thrill of Hope - Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

ST. JAMES STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org

Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso, tracy@saintjamespres.org

Accompanist: Luke Arnold

Treasurer: Marina McLeod, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws, office@saintjamespres.org

Teachers: Claire Alarid

910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 (360) 733-1325

www.saintjamespres.org

**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 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Give to St. James Online:

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

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



GODLY PLAY: THE EXILE AND RETURN

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

BRING GODLY PLAY HOME

Bringing Godly Play: Try the activities that were sent via email and send pictures of your work and answers to any wondering questions to tracy@saintjamespres.org.

LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts. This week, November 22nd, the lectionary texts are: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (worship) Matthew 25: 31-46 (preaching), Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB - NEW BOOK!

St. James Book Club is currently reading *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. *Never Let Me Go* breaks through the boundaries of the literary novel. It is a gripping mystery, a beautiful love story, and also a scathing critique of human arrogance and a moral examination of how we treat the vulnerable and different in our society.

We will be meeting Monday evening December 21st @ 7:00. Email tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link.

2020 HOLIDAY JOY

Last week to participate in our Holiday Joy Program! Please help the **St. James Youth Group** and **Interfaith Coalition** bring a little Holiday Joy to some children and families in need this year! This year all gifts need to be in the form of a gift card in the amount of \$20-\$40 to Fred Meyer, Target, or Yeagers. To participate you can use the link below to sign up, send a check to St. James with "Holiday Joy" in the memo, or contact tracy@saintjamespres.org for more information. Gift Cards need to be mailed or dropped off at church by Friday, November 27th. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AAAA92DAAF8C16-holiday>

ST. JAMES ADVENT BOOK STUDY "A WEARY WORLD"

Join us for an Advent book study of Kathy Escobar's *A Weary World*. During the holidays, so many of us can suffer for all kinds of reasons. The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. We wrestle with chronic pain, broken relationships, shattered dreams, fragile

faith, and unexpected losses. Our grief and sorrow feel particularly acute when compared to the festivity and joy everyone else seems to be feeling. *In A Weary World*, Escobar provides daily and weekly reflections paired with prayers and practices to honor our struggles during the holidays. We will be meeting on **Sunday mornings at 9:00** beginning on **November 29th**. Use the regular Sunday worship service zoom link. If you are interested in purchasing a book use the following link: <https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664266932/a-weary-world.aspx>

PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be taken on Sunday, Dec. 13. Your Mission and Social Action committee ask that you please consider contributing to this worthy cause. You can contribute to this offering by sending your check to the church on or before Dec. 20 with **Christmas Joy Offering** in the memo line, or by using the green GIVING link on the St. James website and selecting **Christmas Joy Offering** in the pull-down menu. More information to come.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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/>

PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

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