



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, November 29, 2020

A Thrill of Hope - Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37

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

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY - WEEK 1

Lector

The world says, "All is lost."

God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light our first Advent candle,

we pray for holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Hope.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"O Holy Night"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Seth Thomas

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Restore us, O God of hosts.

Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating:

from fear that blocks the way of love,

**from worry that blocks the way of joy,
from isolation that blocks the way of relationship,
from structural injustices that keep the world bound.
Forgive us, O God of hosts,
until the stars fall from heaven
and we live as people transformed. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

GODLY PLAY LESSON: PROPHETS

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

Lector

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

"A Thrill of Hope"
Rev. Seth Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
GTG #347

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

"Angels We Have Heard On High"
The 'Westminster Carol' - Jim Gresham

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Wait for the Lord" - GTG #90

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

BLESSING & CHARGE

Rev. Seth Thomas

POSTLUDE

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, December 6th:
Advent: The Weary World Rejoices
The Soul Felt Its Worth - Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8**

ST. JAMES STAFF

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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 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: ADVENT 1

This lesson, along with the next three lessons, helps the children to anticipate the mystery of Christmas. In the Advent lessons, we will move toward Bethlehem and arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle. This week's lesson focuses on the prophets.

BRING GODLY PLAY HOME

Try the activities that were sent home 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 29th, the lectionary texts are:

Isaiah 64:1-9 (worship)

Mark 13:24-37 (preaching)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

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.

SUNDAY BOOK STUDY

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>

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

AA Fairhaven Group
AA Men's Book Study Group
AA SOS Men's Group
Al-Anon
Bellingham Community Chorus
Boy Scouts Troop 7
Overeaters Anon
WA Gender Alliance
You Are Not Alone (YANA)

Bayside Co-op Preschool (back in session)
Hawthorne Learning Solutions (back in session)
Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County (back in the office)