



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Led By the Light of Faith - Isaiah 61:1-4, John 1:6-8

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 3

Jenny Sue LeSchander, Lector

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice."

The news says, "Fear,"

and we say, "Rejoice."

The world says, "Be happy,"

and the church says, "Be faithful."

As we light our third Advent candle,

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Come now, O child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Joy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Arise, Your Light is Come!" - GTG #744

NEW MEMBERS VOWS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Seth Thomas

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord,
and you bind up the brokenhearted. Forgive us, O God,
when we think that your good news is only for us.**

**Forgive us, O God,
when we twist your gospel into something
that fits comfortably into our lives.**

**By your light,
let us see you leading us beyond ourselves
and into the world you love.**

**By your grace,
forgive us, and free us to try again. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

GODLY PLAY LESSON: SHEPHERDS

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

Jenny Sue LeSchander

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

John 1:6-8

SERMON

"Led By the Light of Faith"
Rev. Seth Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
GTG #82

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

"The Friendly Beasts"
by the St. James Bell Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Once in Royal David's City" - GTG #140

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 20th:
Advent: The Weary World Rejoices,
Let All Within Us Praise Christ's Holy Name -
Psalm 89: 1-4 19-26; Luke 1:26-38**

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
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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 III

This lesson helps children continue to prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. In the Advent lessons, we will move toward Bethlehem, guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the Magi. We arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle. This week's lesson focuses on the shepherds.

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, December 13th, the lectionary texts are:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (worship)

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (preaching)

Psalm 126

Luke 1:46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

NOMINATION MEETING DECEMBER 20TH

There will be a meeting of the St. James Congregation following our 12/20 worship service to receive nominations for incoming church elders and deacons. The meeting will be conducted over Zoom, which has voting and conversation features that will allow us to conduct our business.

Please join the Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88335387843> following worship, or stay on, to participate in this brief meeting.

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.

JOIN US FOR THE SUNDAY BOOK STUDY

The Advent book study is Kathy Escobar's *A Weary World*. During the holidays, so many of us can suffer from 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
AI-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)