



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, December 6, 2020

The Soul Felt Its Worth - Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8

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 2

Lindsay Anderson, Lector

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

A choir sings in the silence,

"Come, Emmanuel."

Every valley shall be filled.

Every heart shall be made whole,

for peace is stronger than turmoil,

and love is louder than hate.

As we light our second Advent candle,

we pray for the holy peace of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" - GTG #93

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Seth Thomas

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**“Prepare the way of the Lord,” your prophet says to us.
Forgive us when we have failed to prepare your way.
Forgive us when we have stood in your way, instead:
when we let the challenging words of your prophets roll off of lives,
rather than let them spark change;
when we walk around a neighbor in need,
rather than encounter a chance for compassion.
Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us assurance
that the glory of your coming does not depend
upon the righteousness of your followers.
Forgive us, O Lord, and free us to try again. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Rev. Seth Thomas

GODLY PLAY LESSON: HOLY FAMILY

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

Lindsay Anderson

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

"The Soul Felt Its Worth"
Rev. Seth Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Seth Thomas

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"He is Born" - St. James Bell Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Seth Thomas

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us open our hearts.

We open them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is right to lift up thanks and praise.

THE INVITATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION PRAYER & PRAYERS 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.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

GTG #163

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, December 13th, Advent: The Weary World Rejoices
Led By the Light of Faith - Isaiah 61:1-4, John 1:6-8**

ST. JAMES STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, pastor@saintjamespres.org
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Accompanist: Luke Arnold
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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.**



Stay current on activities and happenings
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GODLY PLAY: ADVENT II

This lesson helps children continue to prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. We 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 Holy Family.

BRINGING GODLY PLAY HOME

Bringing Godly Play: 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 6th, the lectionary texts are:

Isaiah 40:1-11 (worship)

Mark 1:1-8 (preaching)

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

PCUSA Special Offering: Christmas Joy Offering

St. James Presbyterian participates in four PCUSA special offerings during the year. The final one for 2020, 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.

SUNDAY MORNING 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 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.

CONGREGATIONAL 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 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.

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/>

Happy 2nd week of Advent!

