



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, January 3, 2021

John 1:10-18, Jeremiah 31:7-14

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

Come, hear the Christmas news:

Jesus Christ is born!

Come, sing the Christmas story:

Jesus Christ is born!

Come, worship the Christmas child.

Jesus Christ is born!

Let us worship God.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Joy to the World" - GTG #134

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Seth Thomas

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Holy One,

forgive us when we fail to live in the good news
of your Christmas story:

when we hear the angels sing, "Rejoice!"

but we do not join their chorus;

when we know the angels say, "Do not fear,"

yet fear is all we can muster;

when we see a star rising in the east,

but we turn away from its light.

**Forgive us, O Lord, of the sins of our lives
and the sins of the systems we fail to disrupt.
Convict us with the cry of a child from a manger,
and free us to try again. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Rev. Seth Thomas

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

Lector

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:10-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

SERMON

"God with Us...through 2020! An Examen Sunday"

Rev. Seth Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - GTG #119

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

JOYS & CONCERNS

Rev. Seth Thomas

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

GTG #132

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, January 10, 2021
God with us...in Creation - Psalm 29, Mark 1:4-11

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.**



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



GODLY PLAY: EPIPHANY

In this lesson, we remember the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. We will recall together all the weeks in Advent as we had before Christmas but give special attention to the final purple candle, the one that represents the 3 Kings. We will stop here and pay attention to what the three gifts were and what they symbolize as gifts for a baby who is the Messiah.

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, January 3rd, the lectionary texts are:

John 1:10-18 (worship)

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (preaching)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalms 147: 12-20

FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

The week of January 18-24, as St. James partners with our neighbors, Sacred Heart and Our Savior's to assist homeless families. The families are living in Interfaith housing during this time of Covid-19 and knowing specific needs in advance is difficult. However, if you are willing to provide dinner for one of the families please contact Gretchen Pfueller at gmpfueller@gmail.com. for more information. She will have a list of needs soon.

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)