



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Flourishing Creation: Land - Psalm 139:7-12, Matthew 13:1-9

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

Impromptu in A-flat (Schubert), Luke Arnold

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Seth Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Faye Hill, Lector

In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life,
the name of Christ, the pulse of life,
and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God's presence.

Christ, we come into your presence today
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

A planet filled with your presence,

quivering in the forests,

vibrating in the land,

pulsating in the wilderness,

shimmering in the rivers.

God, reveal yourself to us in this place
and show us your face in all creation.

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God's presence. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Jesus, We Are Here" - GTG #392

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Seth Thomas

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Today, we remember and confess
that we have become alienated from Earth
and that we have violated the forests in our garden planet.

We are sorry.

We have been thoughtless and greedy.

**We have ignored the destruction of our forests,
the death of old-growth giants
and species breathing their last.**

We are sorry.

Healer of Creation, forgive us. 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

Faye Hill

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:7-12, p. 577

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

Matthew 13:1-9, p. 13-14

SERMON

"Flourishing Creation: Land"
Rev. Seth Thomas

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" - GTG #291

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

Rev. Seth Thomas

OFFERTORY

"Be Not Afraid" by Craig Courtney
St. James Virtual Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Be Thou my Vision" - GTG #450

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

BLESSING & CHARGE

Rev. Seth Thomas

POSTLUDE

Postlude - Waltz (Delius), 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, April 25, 2021
Flourishing Creation - Wilderness
Isaiah 42:10-13, Luke 4:1-13

SOCIAL DISTANCING REMINDERS

- 1) Enter: center aisle, Exit: side aisles.
- 2) Please stay in place during the service.
- 3) When talking to others, stay 6 feet apart.
- 4) Please don't sing during hymns. Okay to stand and listen. Standing can help move you out of your head and open the creative side of your brain.

- 5) Sit on an "X"; family units may share an "X".
- 6) End of service - go down the side aisles and outside where you may visit briefly.

ST. JAMES STAFF

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

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

Music Director: Luke Arnold, music@saintjamespres.org

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

Administrative Assistant: Shannon Laws, office@saintjamespres.org

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

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church office closed Wednesdays

www.saintjamespres.org

St. James Sunday morning worship continues to be held online.

You can access online worship through

our website at www.saintjamespres.org/live,

the St. James Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saintjamespres

or via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88335387843>.

CONTACT pastor@saintjamespres.org FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Give toward an
existing pledge:



Give to general
offering:



Give to
St. James Online:

[Click Here](#)

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



GODLY PLAY: JESUS AND THE TWELVE

This lesson tells the stories of the disciples of Jesus, who we now call apostles.

BRINGING GODLY PLAY HOME

Design your own shield or last supper picture and send it to Tracy!

tracy@saintjamespres.org.

LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts. This week, April 18th, the lectionary texts are:

Psalm 139:7-12 (worship)

Matthew 13:1-9 (preaching)

Psalm 4

Luke 24:36b-48

Acts 3:12-19

John 3:1-7

APRIL ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

St. James Book Club is currently reading *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer. A struggling novelist travels the world to avoid an awkward wedding in this hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning novel full of "arresting lyricism and beauty"

We will be meeting Monday evening April 19th @ 7:00. Email

tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link.

NEW BOOK FOR THE SUNDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

We will be starting another book discussion on April 25th. We will be looking at Justin McRoberts and Scott Erickson's book *Prayer: Forty Days of Practice*. We hope you can all join us at 9:00 am using the Sunday morning worship zoom link. Let Seth or Tracy know if you would like a copy of the book.

FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES THIS MONTH

April 26-May 2, St. James partners with our neighbors, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and Our Savior's Lutheran Church once again to assist homeless families. The families are currently living in Interfaith Coalition 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.

PRAYERS, PRAISES, AND UPDATES

Jennie McLaurin is donating a kidney to a friend (Jeff) on April 20. Prayers for Jeff to do well with the donation and Jennie for dealing with the pain and recovery are appreciated. If you have a prayer request or update you would like to share, please email office@saintjamespres.org.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Attention: all church activities have moved to online 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

Out of consideration for those at higher risk of complications from COVID-19, church meetings and events should be held online or via phone, or email. If an in-person meeting is necessary, please consult our Church Reopening Guidelines and Procedures (<https://saintjamespres.org/reopening>) before contacting the church to schedule.

AA Fairhaven Group
AA Men's Book Study Group
AA SOS Men's Group (in building)
Bayside Co-op Preschool (in building)
Bellingham Community Chorus
Bellingham Ukulele Group (BUG)
Boy Scouts Troop 7 (in building)
Happy Hour Al-Anon
Hawthorne Learning Solutions (in building)
Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County (in building part-time)
Linda's Tai Chi
Overeaters Anon
South Hill Neighborhood Association
WA Gender Alliance
Whatcom Weavers Guild
You Are Not Alone (YANA)