



## ORDER FOR WORSHIP

August 29, 2021

"Religion, Orphans, and Widows" James 1:17-27

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### 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](http://www.saintjamespres.org/contact) to share how we can be of support!*

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

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## PRELUDE

Luke Arnold

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Seth Thomas

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Faye Hill, Lector

We gather to worship in the presence of God,

**as if we stood on God's holy hill.**

We gather to worship as children of God,

**as if we were standing in the waters of grace.**

We gather to worship the living God,

**for God is here among us.**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

"For the Beauty of the Earth" - GTG #14

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You tell us, O Lord, who may abide in your presence,  
who may dwell on you holy hill:

those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,

and who speak the truth from their heart.

And yet, O Lord, we do not walk blamelessly.

**So often we stumble on the path of faith.  
The truth makes us nervous,  
and we pretend not to know what is right.  
Have mercy, O God.  
Convict us by your wisdom,  
cleanse us by your grace,  
challenge us by your presence,  
and, by your forgiveness, free us to try again.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

### **COMPASSION CAMP RECAP**

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**

### **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 15 pg. 495

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON READING**

James 1:17-27, pg. 229

### **SERMON**

**"Religion, Orphans, and Widows"**

Rev. Seth Thomas

### **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

**"Take, O Take Me as I Am" - GTG #698**

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **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.

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

Duet in A Minor (Schubert)

### \*DOXOLOGY

"For the Life That You Have Given" - GTG #717

For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,  
With these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own;  
Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;  
Give us grace to love and serve you,  
Living what we pray and sing.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Great is thy Faithfulness" - GTG #39

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

### \*BLESSING & CHARGE

### POSTLUDE

"Little Waltz" (Delius)

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*As our worship concludes, our service begins.*

*We invite you to join us for fellowship and refreshments outside on the 14th Street patio, to your left as you leave the sanctuary. Please introduce yourself to those new to you and extend a welcome of peace and friendship to everyone.*

**Next Week, September 5, 2021**

**"Looking Good, Dying on the Inside" James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17**

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## ST. JAMES STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Seth J. Thomas, [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)

Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso, [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)

Music Director: Luke Arnold, [music@saintjamespres.org](mailto:music@saintjamespres.org)

Treasurer: Marina McLeod, [stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com)

Admin: Sharon King, [office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org)

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

Summer Church Office Hours - Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.saintjamespres.org)

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

**You can access online worship through**

**our website at [www.saintjamespres.org/live](http://www.saintjamespres.org/live),**

**the St. James Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saintjamespres](http://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres)**

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

**CONTACT [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

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Give toward an  
existing pledge:



Give to  
St. James Online:

[Click Here](#)

Give to general  
offering:



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



## LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts, this week, August 29th, the Lectionary texts are:

Psalm 15 (worship)

James 1:17-27 (preaching)

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**THE ST. JAMES CHOIR** will be meeting on Thursday, September 2 from 7:30-8:30pm in the Sanctuary. This is not a rehearsal. We welcome returning members and anyone interested in joining. We will be discussing this year's choir program.

**GODLY PLAY TRAINING** For anyone who has wondered about Godly Play we invite you to join us for a training session for volunteers who are willing to teach or assist with Godly Play. We will meet after worship today Sunday, August 29 at noon in the Godly Play classroom. Bring your love of children and wondering questions!

**BOOK EVENT - *Designed to Heal* – Jennie McLaurin's new book is available! Book Event on September 19 at Cordata Presbyterian** Bellingham public health pediatrician and St. James member, Jennie McLaurin, will be speaking about her new book, *Designed to Heal*, during a book signing open to the public Sunday evening, September 19th at Cordata Presbyterian Church. McLaurin's writing connects science and faith, demonstrating how people and their organizations can heal in ways similar to the human body. Her presentation will be at 7 p.m. with book signings to follow.

## **ALLIES PANEL - Sunday, September 19**

The Allies Panel will discuss issues related to welcoming the differences among us as it relates to LGBTQIA (queerness). The new date will be Sunday, September 19, 2021 via Zoom from 9-10am. They will answer questions of how they became allies, fears about acting as an ally beyond family, the best parts of opening up to everyone, and how their faith informs their actions. Everyone is welcome to listen in and join the conversation. For more information, please contact Carla Shafer at [chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com](mailto:chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com)

## **NEW MEMBERS CLASS – TODAY!**

What does it mean to “join the church”? What do “members” do in a Presbyterian community? How is St. James structured, who leads, volunteers, and supports our life together?

Find out all about what it means to become an active member at St. James in this informational lunch session. Come to share your journey of faith that has brought you to this church and place in life. Meet other new folks, learn about leadership and volunteer opportunities, and begin your prayerful discernment about joining our church. Our community is growing and changing as we emerge from COVID-19 and we are so glad to welcome you along in the process.

Lunch provided. Please sign up by emailing Pastor Seth ([pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)). If you are not able to attend today, make-up sessions are available.

**SUNDAY MORNING PARKING** – Now that we have returned to in-person worship and every Sunday we have more people attending, we need to make sure there’s enough parking near the main doors for those who need it. If you’re able to manage stairs/hills or are able to walk a little further, please consider parking in the lower lot or along the road in front of Lowell. This is a wonderful problem to have, but we need everyone’s help solving it.

## **PRAYERS, PRAISES, AND UPDATES**

If you have a prayer request or update you would like to share, please email [office@saintjamespres.org](mailto:office@saintjamespres.org).

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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**Attention: most 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/>

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## PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

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**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** (in building)  
**AA Men's Book Study Group** (in building)  
**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** (in building)  
**Hawthorne Learning Solutions** (in building)  
**Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County** (in building part-time)  
**Linda's Tai Chi** (in building)  
**Overeaters Anon**  
**South Hill Neighborhood Association** (in building)  
**WA Gender Alliance**  
**Whatcom Weavers Guild**  
**You Are Not Alone (YANA)**