



January 19, 2025

"Healing Choices" - Dr. Jennie McLaurin

Mark 1:40-45

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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  
how God is moving in your life.*

*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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**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

Leah Bruno

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Fred Hartsook

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Merry Thomas

God of the feast, God of abundance,  
**you are always turning water into fine wine.**

Though the wine has run out,  
**you work miracles among us.**

Though the work feels impossible,  
**you accomplish wonders through us.**

Though many fail to perceive it,  
**you reveal your glory among us.**

Help us to receive your good gifts this day,

**that we might learn  
to put our faith in you. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul" - GTG 440

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving Lord,

we long to be your faithful people,  
but our good intentions run out  
and we come up empty.

For all the ways we fall short in our sin,  
forgive us, Gracious One.

Change us—like water into wine—  
to become what the world lacks,  
that our community, our nation,  
our church, and all creation  
may know your justice and love.

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

#### **\*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 146 pg. 581-82

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing  
traditional/J.S. Bach, arr. Roland E. Martin  
St. James Chancel Choir

#### **SERMON READING**

Mark 1:40-45 pg. 35-36

#### **SERMON**

"Healing Choices"

Jennie McLaurin

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

"O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go"

- GTG 833

## **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**

*Desert Interlude* from Eight Bible Vignettes  
R. Nathaniel Dett  
Leah Bruno, piano

#### **\*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**

#### **\*SINGING WELCOME AS CHILDREN RETURN TO SANCTUARY**

Welcome, children, welcome, we are glad you're here.  
Welcome, children, welcome. Now to God draw near.

#### **\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" - GTG 39

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

#### **\*BLESSING & CHARGE**

#### **POSTLUDE**

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*As our worship concludes, our service begins.  
We invite you to join us for fellowship following worship. Please introduce  
yourself to those new to you and extend a welcome of peace and  
friendship to everyone.*

**Next Week, January 26, 2025  
“Being Set Free” Luke 4:14-21**

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**GODLY PLAY:**The Parable of the Good Shepherd

In this lesson we hear the parable of the Good Shepherd, in which the shepherd searches for his one lost sheep, leaving the other ninety-nine to do so. This parable is often considered more of an identity statement than a parable.

We hope you will join us at 10:15 for our intergenerational memory verse time. After memory verse time The Godly Play room will open at 10:30am for students, adults will stay upstairs for worship. Students will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

**ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB-TOMORROW**

The St. James book club is currently reading *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied all Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien. We will meet tomorrow Monday, January 20th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.

**YOUTH GROUP**

Inviting all middle and high school students to join us next Sunday January 26th for our pizza dinner and meeting. We will meet from 5:30pm-7:30pm for dinner and activities.

**INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE TIME**

Join us beginning January 12th at 10:15am in the lounge for a time to look at, learn, and discuss bible verses. Led by Kat DeVaney, this is a time for all ages to come together and examine scripture together.

## **CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RELIEF**

Have you felt heartbroken to see the devastation occurring in California? Multiple members have friends or family now in crisis. We at St James, have a direct connection to aid people in need from one area of the California fires. Santa Monica Presbyterian, the sister church of now demolished Palisades Presbyterian, has stepped in to provide support by providing many essential supplies through their facility.

Carol and Ray Dellecker from our congregation have a daughter and son-in-law who were married at Palisades Presbyterian. Carol and Ray have been in contact with the family members who are taking steps to survive this tragedy.

If you wish to help, we at St James are setting up a fund to provide support to this church. Donations from our church will likely be sent through gift cards. If you wish to donate through St. James, we will have a collection jar for cash or checks. You may also donate through the drop down menu on the St. James website. Please put "Palisades Presbyterian Church" in the memo line.

Here's a link to Palisades Presbyterian's website to view current notices:  
[www.palipres.org](http://www.palipres.org)

## **PUB THEOLOGY - January 27th**

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday's from 6:30-7:30pm at Archer Ale House in Fairhaven. Childcare and carpooling are available at St. James beginning at 6:15pm and ending at 7:45pm. The next Pub Theology group will meet on Monday, January 27th.

Led by Jimmy and Jessica Parks, we'll explore themes of Christian ethics-ideas about good, evil, and the in-between, and how we live them out in everyday life. This is not a lecture or Bible study, but an opportunity to have an open discussion in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Jimmy and Jessica will facilitate the discussion and provide resources for deeper engagement, if desired. Outside readings are not required for participation but will allow for a richer conversation. Please reach out to [jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com) if you would like the resources used for discussion or if you have any questions.

## **ST. JAMES WRITERS CIRCLE - February 6, 2025**

St. James Writers Circle is a gathering of members and friends who are writing (or would like to be) prose, poems, novels, short stories. We are open to all genres and topics, and encouraging of spiritual and other content that is an authentic reflection of your personal views and explorations of ideas. We will meet to support each other's writing and provide resources. Meetings at the church will be at 10 AM on the first Thursday of each month, and on Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM .

Writing Circle facilitators are Maureen Kosa and Carla Shafer.

## **BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

We are once again joining with Lowell Elementary school to provide snacks for children who may need them during the school day. We are asking for donations of individually wrapped nut-free snacks. Items can be left in the tub in the narthex or outside Tracy's office. This will be an ongoing need until the school year ends in June. Our goal is 100 snacks/month.

Lowell is also in need of mentors and volunteers to read with children at the school. Please contact [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

## **UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

We have our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26th, 2025, following Sunday worship. All are welcome to attend, and active congregational members are welcome to vote.

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week  
January 19th:

Psalm 36:5-10 (worship)

John 2:1-11 (sermon)

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

## **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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Monday, 1/20	Church office closed in observance of Martin Luther King holiday 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Book club on zoom
Wednesday, 1/22	8:30am, Toddler time 10:00am, Grief support group
Thursday, 1/23	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 1/26	10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service <a href="https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/">https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/</a> 12:00pm, Congregational meeting

## PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group.....	<b>Mondays/ Thursdays</b>
AA Grateful Hearts.....	<b>Mondays</b>
AA Men's Book Study Group.....	<b>Mondays</b>
AA SOS Men's Group.....	<b>Wednesdays</b>
AA Meditation Group.....	<b>Fridays</b>
Bayside Co-op Preschool.....	<b>Monday-Friday during school year</b>
Bellingham Community Chorus.....	<b>Tuesdays September-April</b>
Bellingham Ukulele Group (BUG).....	<b>1st Saturday of each month</b>
Boy Scouts Troop 7.....	<b>Mondays</b>
Happy Hour Al-Anon.....	<b>Tuesdays</b>
Liberation Yoga.....	<b>TBD</b>
Linda's Tai Chi.....	<b>Mondays</b>
Little Sapling Music.....	<b>Wednesdays/ Thursdays quarterly</b>
Overeaters Anonymous.....	<b>Saturdays</b>
The Table Church.....	<b>Sundays</b>
Whatcom Weavers Guild.....	<b>TBD</b>
Wild Hearts group.....	<b>TBD</b>
World Peace Poets.....	<b>TBD</b>

## ST. JAMES STAFF

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

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

Music Director: Leah Bruno, [music@saintjamespres.org](mailto:music@saintjamespres.org)

Treasurer: Stefany Ness, [treasurer@saintjamespres.org](mailto:treasurer@saintjamespres.org)

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

910 14th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 360-733-1325 [www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.saintjamespres.org)

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Pastor Seth's Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

To schedule ahead of time: <http://www.calendly.com/pastorseththomas>  
or [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)

*In consideration of others, please refrain from wearing heavy perfumes and scents, and please silence your cell phones before the service.*

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**You can access online worship through  
our website at [www.saintjamespres.org/live](http://www.saintjamespres.org/live)**

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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)

