



March 30, 2025

“Liberating Lent: Love Calls Us Home”

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**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 to share
how we can be of support!*

**Please stand in body or in spirit*

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Leah Bruno

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jenny Sue LeSchander

Happy are those who are honest with God.

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

Therefore, let all who are faithful

offer prayer to the Lord in times of distress.

For God is our refuge

and protects us in times of trouble.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!

Let us shout for joy! Let us worship God!

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"God Welcomes All" - GTG 399

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess
that we keep silent when we should speak.
We see iniquity and the injustices of the world,
yet are content not to call them out.
We withhold kind words,
yet are quick to speak in judgment.
Forgive us, O God.
Direct the way we should go
and help us to use our voices
to spread your grace and truth.**

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 32 pgs. 506-507

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Kyrie"
Michael Praetorius, arr. H. R. W.
St. James Chancel Choir

SERMON READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 pg. 78-79

SERMON

"Liberating Lent: Love Calls Us Home"
Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"There is Now a New Creation" - GTG 774

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

"Fairest Lord Jesus"
Münster Gesangbuch, arr. Jim Gresham
Jim Gresham, clarinet; 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. *Lenten time is here.*

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"Amazing Grace" - GTG 649

WE GO INTO THE WORLD AS GOD'S AMBASSADORS

***BLESSING & CHARGE**

POSTLUDE

*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, April 6, 2025
“Liberating Lent: Jesus in Bethany”
John 12:1-8



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1ST!

This year we are partnering with First Presbyterian and St. Paul's Episcopal Church for our Into the Deep VBS. We will be holding VBS from June 23rd-the 26th from 9am-12pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We need more volunteers this year as this will be double the size of the programs we have been putting on at St. James the past three years. Register your camper or to volunteer here:

<https://fpcbellingham.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2856984>

GODLY PLAY: The Greatest Parable 2&3

These are the middle two of a four lesson series that “present Jesus’ public ministry and the relation of his presence to the whole Christian language system... The goal of this presentation is to allow the inexhaustible meaning and linguistic complexity of Jesus to shine through with a kind of deep simplicity that it is open to people of all ages and stages of faith development.”

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.

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH - TODAY

Are you interested in learning more about St. James, curious about joining, want to know how to get involved, and/or want to meet others who are in the same boat? Join Pastor Seth on Sunday, March 30th for lunch downstairs in the Fellowship hall.

JOY IN THE JOURNEY

Is it possible to experience joy no matter the circumstances? This 4 week class for Lent, focused on the book of Philippians, helps us know the source of true joy, establishes a foundation for our faith, and how we might love and serve others. The class starts in the Fellowship hall, Sunday, March 9 at 9:00am and will continue on March 16th, 23rd, and April 6th. and is facilitated by Randy Pries. Note there is NO class on March 30th.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Can't make it to Pub Theology but want to be a part of an open conversation about life, theology, current events, and the Church? Grab coffee with Seth, Jessica, and Jimmy on Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am at Makeworth Coffee (1201 N State St).

EASTER CANDY NEEDED!

We are in need of donations to stuff Easter eggs for our annual Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. We are looking for donations of nut free individually wrapped candy. Donations can be dropped off in the office or with Tracy no later than Thursday, April 17th.

EASTER SUNDAY - DEACONS POTLUCK CELEBRATION

St. James Deacons invite everyone to join in a pre-worship enhanced coffee hour on Easter Sunday. No need to prepare breakfast at home, just come to church early and begin Easter Day sharing breakfast with your church family.

You are invited to bring a favorite finger food to share with others. Deviled eggs? Mini frittatas? Ham and cheese rolls? Fruit? Bite-sized pastries? Your contribution is up to you. We ask that you bring it to the Horizon Room by 9:30 a.m. or drop off your dish to the kitchen a day or two in advance. Be sure to label it "Easter Sunday".

HOLY WEEK

We hope you will join us for all that Holy Week has to offer. Watch for more information about each event.

Maundy Thursday Service at Cordata Presbyterian April 17th at 6pm

Good Friday Service at First Presbyterian April 18th at 7:30pm

Easter Vigil at St. James Saturday, April 19th at 7:30pm

Easter Munchies at St. James Sunday, April 20th at 9:30am

Easter Egg Hunt at St. James Sunday, April 20th following worship

LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week
March 30th:

Psalm 32 (worship)

Luke 15:1-3,11-32 (sermon)

Joshua 5:9-12

Corinthians 5:16-21

PRAYERS, PRAISES, AND UPDATES

If you have a prayer request or update you would like to share, please email office@saintjamespres.org.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Monday, 3/31	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Tuesday, 4/1	5:30pm, Building & Grounds
Wednesday, 4/2	8:30am, Toddler time 10:00am, Grief Support Group 4:00pm, Mission & Social Action 5:00pm, Finance 5:30pm, CFF (zoom)
Thursday, 4/3	8:30am, Coffee & Conversation at Makeworth 10:00am, St. James Writers Circle 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 6:00pm, SJPC Bell Choir 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 4/6	10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/

PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

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

ST. JAMES STAFF

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

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

Music Director: Leah Bruno, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: Stefany Ness, treasurer@saintjamespres.org

Admin: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

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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

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

**You can access online worship through
our website at www.saintjamespres.org/live**

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)

