



September 17, 2023

"God Has Welcomed Us"

Romans 14:1-12

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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**

Ta Wei Tsai

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carla Shafer

Listen! The Lord calls out to us, offering life!

**Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.**

Walk in the paths of God's commandments with delight.

**Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.**

**With our whole heart,**

**we will turn to you and live!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" - GTG #268

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Judge,  
we admit we have double standards.  
We seek forgiveness for ourselves,  
but fail to forgive others.  
We seek relief for ourselves,  
but fail to seek relief for others.  
We seek leniency for ourselves,  
but fail to show that mercy to others.  
Forgive us, mighty God,  
and help us to forgive,  
showing others the same grace and mercy  
that you have generously shown to us.

## **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 114 pg. 563

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **SERMON READING**

Romans 14:1-12 pg. 163

#### **SERMON**

"God Has Welcomed Us"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

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

"When We Are Living" - GTG #822

## **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

Randy Bowers, 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

"To God Be the Glory" - GTG #634

## 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, September 24, 2023**

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## **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).

### **GODLY PLAY: Creation & Second Creation: Falling Apart**

With this lesson we begin to trace the elusive presence of the mystery of God in the story of God's People. We begin to play Hide-and-Seek with the Holy One and ask, "What can we know of the Giver by the gift?"

We hope you will join us at 10:15am for songs and memory verse time in the lounge. At 10:30, children will go downstairs to Godly Play, and adults will stay upstairs to worship. Students will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts this week, September 17th, the Lectionary texts are:

Psalms 114 (worship)

Romans 14:1-12 (sermon)

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalms 103:8-13

Genesis 50:15-21

Matthew 18:21-25

## **NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASS!**

We are bringing back our Sunday morning adult education class. Beginning this Sunday, September 17th and running each Sunday morning until November 12th from 9-10am, Jeff King, a retired psychology professor, will introduce us to some of the emerging correlations between modern psychology and the scriptures. We hope you will join us on any or all of the Sundays for a time of learning, engaging, contemplation, and discussion. Handouts will be provided at the beginning of each class. Childcare will be provided. Contact Tracy if you have any questions.

## **GODLY PLAY KICKOFF-TODAY!**

Godly Play lessons resume today, Sunday September 17th. Join us for an ice cream sundae bar after worship. We will have the Godly Play classroom open and staffed so you can explore and ask questions.

## **BOOK CLUB-TOMORROW**

St. James book club is currently reading *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, 'With a scientist's attention to detail and a writer's compassion for a diverse array of people, *Flight Behavior* tracks a young woman whose life morphs and takes flight just as she learns about the very real problems of the world in which she's spread her new wings.' Copies of the book are available in the office. We will meet tomorrow, the third Monday in September, Monday September 18th, at 7:00pm via zoom. Contact Tracy for the zoom link.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Inviting all middle and high school students to join us next Sunday evening September 24th for our pizza dinner and meeting. We will meet at 5:30pm for dinner and activities.

## **GAME NIGHT AND POTLUCK**

Join us Friday September 29th from 6-8pm in the fellowship hall, for an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. Bring your favorite game and favorite dish to share and have some fun.

## **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, or just want to know what it is all about. We will meet on Saturday, September 30th from 9am-2pm, lunch included. Bring your love of children and wondering questions! Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) if you have any questions or to register.

## **FOREST BATHING/ NATURE THERAPY**

**Sep 23, 9:00am – 12:00pm**

*This event is part of the City's ALL IN for Climate Action Week. Click here for a [full list of events](#).*

Please join Stillpoint at Becksides for a guided Forest Bathing/Nature Therapy experience on Saturday, Sept. 23, 9am -12pm on Stillpoint's five acres of sacred earth with beautiful trees. Join us for this outdoor, contemplative experience of entanglement with nature and each other. This event is hosted by Stillpoint at Becksides in partnership with Unity Spiritual Center and St. James Presbyterian Church.

## **NOTES**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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Monday, 9/18	4:00pm, St. James Fitness 7:00pm, SJPC Session
Thursday, 9/21	4:00pm, St. James Fitness
Next Sunday, 9/24	9:00am, Scripture & Psychology - Sunday School 10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service <a href="https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/">https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/</a>

## PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group.....	Mondays/ Thursdays
AA Men's Book Study Group.....	Mondays
AA SOS Men's Group.....	Wednesdays
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 Al-Anon.....	Tuesdays
Liberation Yoga.....	TBD
Linda's Tai Chi.....	Mondays
Little Sapling Music.....	Wed/ Thur during school year
Overeaters Anonymous.....	Saturdays
The Table Church.....	Sundays
Whatcom Weavers Guild.....	TBD
World Peace Poets.....	TBD

## ST. JAMES STAFF

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

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

Music Director: Ta Wei Tsai, [music@saintjamespres.org](mailto:music@saintjamespres.org)

Treasurer: Katie Dunne, [stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com](mailto:stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com)

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

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Office Hours - Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

[www.saintjamespres.org](http://www.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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**St. James Sunday morning worship continues to be held online  
as well as in-person.**

**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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existing pledge:



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Give to general  
offering:



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

