



November 19, 2023

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

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

Ta Wei Tsai

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lindsay Anderson

To you, O God of the heavens, we lift our eyes.

Have mercy on us!

God has been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

Hear us when we call!

From everlasting to everlasting, God is with us.

We will magnify your holy name!

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Here in This Place" - GTG 401

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundance,
you have given us so many gifts.
You bless us with talents, resources,
skills, and knowledge,
and yet we hide them under a bushel.
We hoard these gifts, instead of following you
and sharing with those in need.
We have been poor stewards of all you have given.
Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given,
that it might be returned in service to you.

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 90:1-12 pgs. 547-548

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Jordan's Angels
Words and Music by Rollo A. Dilworth
Incorporating "All Night, All Day" (Traditional Spiritual)
SJPC Choir

SERMON READING

Matthew 25:14:30 pgs. 28-29

SERMON

"Talents, Trust, Anger, and Abundance"
Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
- GTG 716

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

At Your Feet
By Edvard Grieg, Op. 68, No. 3
Ta Wei Tsai, 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**

"All Who Love and Serve Your City"
- GTG 351

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, November 26, 2023
Christ the King Sunday
Guest preacher Rev. Kyle Anderson**

GODLY PLAY: The Story of Job

Job is linked in general to the search of the People of God for the mystery of the presence of God. It is a kind of commentary on the whole journey of the People of God..

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, November 19th, the Lectionary texts are:

Psalm 90:1-12 (worship)

Matthew 25:14–30 (sermon)

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

ADVENT FESTIVAL

We are already planning for our annual Advent festival with a soup and bread lunch on December 3rd. We need people to bring soup, bread, and cookies, along with volunteers to help with set up and cleanup. If you can contribute or volunteer, you can sign up on the sheet in the Horizon Room or at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B054BAAAA2BA5F49-45736417-advent>

ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB

We are currently reading *How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence*. Reminder that this month we will meet on the **fourth** Monday in November, November 27th at 7:00pm instead of the usual **third** Monday. Email tracy@saintjamespres.org for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.

ONE PARISH/ ONE PRISONER (OPOP)

The OPOP team (Diana, Alice, Wendy, Jenny Sue, Mark, Seth, Ryan) continues to write letters (and now we can email) to, and get to know, Cliff. We're each building our own relationship with him, asking different questions, learning different things. In the near future we hope to be able to visit Cliff in person, and are excited to get to meet him face-to-face!

How Can YOU Help? Cliff has asked for leads on a trailer for purchase. This would be a habitable trailer/RV-type shelter, in the \$3k range. If you have any leads for Cliff, please reach out to one of our team members. And always, please keep Cliff in your prayers as he prepares to re-enter society, and please keep the OPOP team in your prayers as we work to help Cliff, and each other, prepare for a new life ahead.

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.

Lowell is also in need of mentors and volunteers to read with children at the school. Please let Tracy if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

YOUTH GROUP

Inviting all middle and high school students to join us Sunday evening November 26th for our monthly pizza dinner and meeting. We will meet at 5:30pm for dinner and activities.

NEW MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY: Joining St. James

In November, we will offer new and inquiring folks an opportunity to learn more about St. James, the Presbyterian Church, and the important roles our members play in our worship and service. If you want to become a member of St. James this year, please talk with Pastor Seth about class details. All are welcome!

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, 11/20	4:00pm, St. James Fitness
Wednesday, 11/22	8:30am, Toddler Time
Thursday, 11/23	Thanksgiving Day - church office closed
Next Sunday, 11/26	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 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.....	Wednesdays/ Thursdays quarterly
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

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

Music Director: Ta Wei Tsai, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: Katie Dunne, stjamestreasurer.bham@gmail.com

Admin: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

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

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

www.saintjamespres.org

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

**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,
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:



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St. James Online:

[Click Here](#)

Give to general
offering:



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

