



February 11, 2024

"It Is Good For Us To Be Here"

Mark 9:2-9

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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**

Faye Hill

It is God who gathers us here.  
It is not our denomination that gathers us,  
or our church staff or family, or our political parties.

**It is God who gathers us here.**

We find ourselves on the mountain  
this Transfiguration Day,

**witnessing a last flash of glory  
before a forty-day journey.**

It is not about us;

**it is all about Jesus Christ.**

From the river Jordan to this place,

**it is all about Jesus Christ.**

From Ash Wednesday toward Easter,

**it is all about Jesus Christ.**

**Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

“O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

- GTG 666

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of transformation,  
you make new life where there was old,  
dazzling light where there were shadows,  
peace where there was violence,  
and friends where there were enemies.  
Forgive us, O God, when we stand in the way  
of your transformative love.  
Forgive us when we do not live  
as people who have been changed by your grace.  
Call us to the mountain once more,  
and send us out to be witnesses  
of your transformative grace.

**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 50:1-6 pg. 519

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Text by Joyce Merman, tune by George N. Allen

Choral arrangement by Roy Ringwald

SJPC Choir

**SERMON READING**

Mark 9:2-9 pg. 44

**SERMON**

"It Is Good For Us To Be Here"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"

- GTG 406

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

**WELCOMING NEW ST. JAMES MEMBERS**

**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**

**\*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**

"Shine, Jesus, Shine" - GTG 192

## **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, February 18, 2024**

**“Lent 1: Testing”**

**Mark 1:9-15**

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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:** The Parable of the deep well.

Jerome Berryman says that “it is important for children to encounter parables during childhood so they can develop the ability to hear with their own ears what Jesus was communicating when he spoke in parables.” Our parable boxes use two dimensional materials to help reiterate that these are Jesus’s words and stories to us. The wondering questions used for parable lessons are designed to encourage children to see that there are deeper meanings in the parables than what they might initially encounter.

The Godly Play room will open at 10:15 am for songs and memory verse time, with the lesson starting at 10:35 am. Students will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

### **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts, this week, February 4th, the Lectionary texts are:

Psalm 50:1-6 (worship)

Mark 9:2-9 (sermon)

2 Kings 2:1-12

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - THIS WEDNESDAY, 7:00 PM**

We begin our Lenten Pilgrimage with a community worship service with our Presbyterian Church family at St. James on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm. Come to worship with members from Cordata, FPC, and Spring Church. Nursery and Godly Play available for children. Visit <http://www.saintjamespres.org/live> for Zoom connections and live stream.

## **LENT ADULT EDUCATION CLASS**

*Loving Well – The Gift of Presence In Everyday Conversations*

We know the importance and call to love others, but what does that practically look like in our everyday interactions with others? You might be surprised by how some basic conversation skills that are known but rarely used, can make such a loving impact on those around us: family, friends, and neighbors in our community. Join us for a 5 week class, at 9am on Sunday mornings starting February 18, meeting downstairs. Drawing on research and scripture, we together will learn some foundational elements of loving relationships and practical skills that we can all put into practice, to extend greater compassion and in deeper ways to reflect Jesus to those around us. If you can't make all 5 weeks, drop in when you can. This class will be facilitated by Randy Pries.

## **BELLINGHAM COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

We are again joining 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.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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Monday, 2/12	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Wednesday, 2/14	8:30am, Toddler Time
Thursday, 2/15	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 2/18	9:00am, Lent Adult Class 10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service <a href="https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/">https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/</a> 12:00pm, Deacons

## 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 AI-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](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)

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)

