



March 17, 2024  
"Lent 5: Serving"  
John 12:20-33

---

**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*

---

## **ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

**PRELUDE**

Ta Wei Tsai

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jennie McLaurin

Let us join our voices with the saints whose lives inspire.

**We are here today, aspiring to claim the life of faith with courage.**

We are ready to worship and give thanks  
for whose we are.

**In our worship, we share God's message with the world.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" - GTG 422

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Through the season of Lent, O God,  
we have prayed for clean hearts and right spirits.  
Forgive us, O Lord, if we have prayed with our words  
but failed to pray with our actions.  
Forgive us of what we have done  
that has contributed to the suffering of another,  
and forgive us of what we have failed to do  
that could have lightened a neighbor's burden.  
Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy.  
Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

## **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 119:9-16 pg. 566

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Near to the Heart of God*  
Arranged by Lloyd Larson  
SJPC Choir

### **SERMON READING**

John 12:20-33 pgs. 106-107

### **SERMON**

"Lent 5: Serving"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

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

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"  
- GTG 223

## **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**

#### **\*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**

"Together We Serve" - GTG 767

## **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, March 24, 2024  
“Palm Sunday: Celebrating”  
John 12:12-16**

---

### **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).

### **VBS IS BACK AT ST. JAMES!**



We will once again be partnering with First Presbyterian Church to offer a four day Vacation Bible School for children entering Kindergarten thru 5th grade. Registration opens April 1st and we hope you will join us as we Find God in the peaks and valleys at Alpine Ascent. Volunteers are also needed, please talk to Tracy if you can help.

## **GODLY PLAY: The Greatest Parable 2, 3, & 4**

These are the second thru fourth 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.”

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, March 17th, the Lectionary texts are:

Psalm 119:9-16 (worship)

John 12:20-33 (sermon)

Psalm 51:1-12

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:5-10

## **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 thru March 17th, 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.

## **ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB**

The St. James book club is currently reading *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. It is a magnificent novel about four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. We are meeting tomorrow evening, Monday, March 18th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link. Books are available in the office.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

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

## **MISSION & SOCIAL ACTION**

St. James makes a commitment to donate 10% of its annual pledges through the Mission & Social Action Committee. We have designated 25% of our budget to Housing and Homelessness. First quarter donations of \$5000 have been distributed to the following organizations: Interfaith Coalition, Habitat For Humanity, Lighthouse Mission, Unity Village (Homes NOW), Gardenvue (Road2Home), and The Opportunity Council. Over the next few months we would like to share more information about our partners. If you do volunteer work for any of these groups, we'd love to hear about your experiences. MSA welcomes new members. Just contact a present member. You may also send questions or suggestions to Maureen Kosa, Mission Elder at [mkosa@hotmail.com](mailto:mkosa@hotmail.com).

## **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 March 28th.

## **SUNSHINE THROUGH THE RAIN: An afternoon of St. James art**

We are looking for St. James artists of all kinds! On May 11th we will be holding an all church retreat fundraising performance of St. James participants along with an art auction. We are looking for anyone who would like to donate a piece of artwork or perform a piece of music, poetry, reading, etc. You can email Tracy ([tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)) with the type and approximate length of what you would like to contribute.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

---

Monday, 3/18	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Wednesday, 3/20	8:30am, Toddler Time
Thursday, 3/21	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 3/24	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.....	Wednesdays/ Thursdays quarterly
Overeaters Anonymous.....	Saturdays
The Table Church.....	Sundays
Whatcom Weavers Guild.....	TBD
Wild Hearts group.....	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.*

---

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

---

Give toward an  
existing pledge:



Give to  
St. James Online:

[Click Here](http://www.saintjamespres.org/live)

Give to general  
offering:



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

