



April 14, 2024

“Invitation to Understanding”

Luke 24:36b-48

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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 J. Thomas

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Maureen Kosa

We live in the radiance of your glory.

**Our worship comes from**

**the gladness you have put in our hearts.**

We give you thanks for the peace of your salvation.

**Oh, hear the joy of our praise**

**for your grace and mercy.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Now the Green Blade Rises” - GTG 247

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**What love you have given us, O God,  
that we should be called your children.**

**What love you have given us, O Christ,  
that we should share a table with you.**

**Forgive us when we act as if we were your only children:  
when we do not recognize your image  
in the faces of strangers, enemies, or friends;  
when we do not share our own tables,  
forgetting that we need each other.**

**Forgive us, O Christ, maker of peace,  
and teach us to follow in your way.**

## **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 4 pg. 490

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **SERMON READING**

Luke 24:36b-48 pg. 91

#### **SERMON**

"Invitation to Understanding"

Rev. Dr. Seth J. Thomas

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

"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

- GTG 703

# **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**

**"Go in Grace and Make Disciples"**

**- GTG 296**

## **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, April 21, 2024  
Dr. Jeff King guest preacher**

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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: Work Day**

A work day is a Sunday when the students don't hear a story. During our typical Sunday morning time, there is often not enough time for some of our art responses or to explore all they want to in the classroom, so we have work days where the children can more fully engage in the "Play" part of Godly Play.

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, April 14th, the Lectionary texts are:

Psalm 4 (worship)

Luke 24:36b-48 (sermon)

Psalm 40:1-5

Acts 3:12-19

Isaiah 6:1-9a

1 John 3:1-7

## **ST. JAMES BOOK CLUB**

The St. James book club is currently reading *Tulalip, From My Heart: An Autobiographical Account of a Reservation Community*. We will meet tomorrow, Monday April 15th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.

## **PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?**

Join us for a 4-week study to become more knowledgeable about the Palestinian situation and the PC(USA) position “that Christian Zionism does not represent the majority of American Christians and the faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).” And considering Ephesians 4:31-32 “Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” Led by Marjolein van der Veen and Carla Shafer. There will be a Webinar on Thursday April 18th at 9am followed by 3 Sunday morning discussions on Sunday April 21st, 28th, and May 5th at 9am in the fellowship hall. Please email Carla for more information, and to request a book.

[chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com](mailto:chuckanutsandstone@gmail.com)

## **SACRED EARTH FAIR URBAN EDITION**

Join our partner, *Multifaith Network for Climate Justice*, at the Sacred Earth Fair Urban Edition on Saturday, April 20 from 1-4pm The Fair will be held at First Congregational Church of Bellingham located at 2401 Cornwall Ave. The full list of events is displayed in the Horizon Room, or at the following link: <https://www.saintjamespres.org/sacredearthfair2024/>. Sessions include “Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitat,” a question and answer panel with local politicians and climate experts, “Backyard Pollinators: Mason Bee House Activity,” storytelling by a Nooksack Tribal elder, and a poetry session. Most of these sessions are appropriate for children and adults. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please email Maureen Kosa at [mkosa@hotmail.com](mailto:mkosa@hotmail.com).

## **HELP FOR THE BOWERS FAMILY**

Many of you have been asking how we can support the Bowers family during this incredibly difficult time for them. Tess’ brother set up a meal train and they would greatly appreciate any help with meals for their family. Please sign up to bring a meal or donate a food gift card here:

<https://mealtrain.com/zn3r86>

## AN AFTERNOON OF ST. JAMES ART

Our All Church Retreat planning committee is working hard and we have an incredible fundraiser planned for May 11<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will join us for **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 a fundraising performance of St. James participants along with an art auction to help offset the cost of the retreat. We are looking for anyone who would like to donate a piece of artwork or perform a piece of music, poetry, reading, etc. If you have a performance piece you would like to contribute please email Tracy ([tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org)) with the type and approximate length of what you would like to contribute. If you have a physical piece of art you would like to donate, please fill out the form here <https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2248745>, or fill out a paper form found in the Horizon room on Sunday's. Submissions are due by **TODAY** April 14th! If you would like to join the retreat planning committee please let Tracy know.

## VBS IS BACK AT ST. JAMES!

register: [tinyurl.com/AlpineVBS2024](https://tinyurl.com/AlpineVBS2024)

VBS 2024

ALPINE  
ASCENT

Save the Date!

June  
24-27

finding God in the peaks and valleys

We will once again be partnering with First Presbyterian Church to offer a four day Vacation Bible School for children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. Registration is open 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. Register here:

[tinyurl.com/AlpineVBS2024](https://tinyurl.com/AlpineVBS2024)

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

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Monday, 4/15	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, St. James book club (zoom)
Wednesday, 4/17	8:30am, Toddler Time
Thursday, 4/18	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 4/21	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 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
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.*

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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)

