



February 2, 2025

"Being Honest"

Luke 4:21-30

---

**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](http://www.saintjamespres.org/contact) to share*  
*how we can be of support!*

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

---

## **ORDER FOR WORSHIP**

### **PRELUDE**

Leah Bruno

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Randy Pries

In you, O Lord, let us take refuge,  
**so we might never be put to shame.**  
In your righteousness, O Lord,  
let us find deliverance,  
**so we might experience your saving power.**  
In your presence, O God, let us place our trust,  
**so we might find confidence in you alone.**  
You are our rock and our refuge,  
our fortress and shield.  
**We turn to you again this day. Amen.**

### **GODLY PLAY**

Tracy Caruso

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

"God Is Calling through the Whisper" - GTG 410

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Generous God, when we set our tables,  
we imagine who belongs.**

**We are satisfied to welcome  
those who we call our own.**

**Our boundaries are drawn  
for our own family, our own congregation,  
our own neighborhood.**

**We limit the seating to those  
who make us comfortable,  
and lay out the welcome mat  
for those who we choose to welcome.**

**But your kingdom has no boundary.**

**Before our birth you have known, loved,  
and claimed each and every one.**

**Soften our hearts to those we rage against.**

**Restore us to your vision  
of who belongs at the table.**

**Renew us with your abundant mercy and love,  
which know no end.**

## **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 71:1-6 pg. 532

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

Celtic Laud

Pamela Martin & Craig Courtney

St. James Chancel Choir

## SERMON READING

Luke 4:21-30 pgs. 61-62

## SERMON

"Being Honest"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

## \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"  
- GTG 722

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

## JOYS & CONCERNS

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

"Beside Still Waters"  
Bernard Hamblen  
Dave Nelson, Tenor  
Leah Bruno, 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

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts.

**We open them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**It is right to lift up thanks and praise.**

## THE INVITATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

"The body of Christ, given for you." **Amen.**

"The blood of Christ, shed for you." **Amen.**

## COMMUNION PRAYER & 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.

### \*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Be Still, My Soul" - GTG 819

## 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, February 9, 2025**  
**"Being Engaged" Luke 5:1-11**

---

## **GODLY PLAY:**The Parable of the Sower

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.

We hope you will join us at 10:15 for our intergenerational memory verse time in the lounge. For Communion Sunday, children will begin in the service and hear the story with the entire congregation. They will be taken downstairs for their work time and then will return for communion.

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts for this week, February 2nd:

Psalm 71:1-6 (worship)

Luke 4:21-30 (sermon)

Jeremiah 1:4-10

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

## **INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE TIME**

Join us Sunday mornings at 10:15am in the lounge for a time to look at, learn, and discuss bible verses. Led by Kat DeVaney, this is a time for all ages to come together and examine scripture together.

## **ST. JAMES WRITERS CIRCLE - February 6th**

St. James Writers Circle is a gathering of members and friends who are writing (or would like to be) prose, poems, novels, short stories. We are open to all genres and topics, and encouraging of spiritual and other content that is an authentic reflection of your personal views and explorations of ideas. We will meet to support each other's writing and provide resources. Meetings at the church will be at 10 AM on the first Thursday of each month, (Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 2 and so on) and on Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM (Nov 20, Dec. 18, Jan. 15 and so on). Writing Circle facilitators are Maureen Kosa and Carla Shafer.

## **BELL CHOIR**

The bell choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, February 6, from 6-6:45pm, in the Horizon Room. If you're interested in playing with us, please see Jenny Sue for more information. The more hands, the merrier!

## **GODLY PLAY TRAINING**

Join us after worship on February 23rd from 12-4 for an afternoon of Godly Play training. This is for anyone who is interested in becoming a storyteller or door person for Godly Play or is just curious to learn more about it. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Tracy at [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) if you are interested in joining or if you have any questions.

## **DONATIONS TO PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Dear St James congregation,

Thank you for your generosity in contributing financial aid and messages of consolation to members of Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church as they begin recovery from the fire that destroyed their church and much of their community in Los Angeles recently. We've received donations from you of almost \$4,000 and over a dozen cards, all which we have forwarded on to them. It's our understanding with the complete loss of their church building, they'll begin meeting this Sunday in Culver City Presbyterian Church ([palipres.org](http://palipres.org)).

## **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 next June. Our goal is 100 snacks/month.

Lowell is also in need of mentors and volunteers to read with children at the school. Please contact [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

## **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).

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JAMES

---

Monday, 2/3	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Tuesday, 2/4	5:00pm, Building & Grounds
Wednesday, 2/5	8:30am, Toddler Time 10:00am, Grief Support group 5:00pm, Finance 5:30, CFF (zoom)
Thursday, 2/6	10:00am, St. James Writers Circle 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 6:00pm, Bell Choir 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 2/9	10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service <a href="https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/">https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/</a> 12:00pm, Session

## PROGRAMS SHARING OUR ST. JAMES FACILITY

AA Fairhaven Group.....	Mondays/ Thursdays
AA Grateful Hearts.....	Mondays
AA Men's Book Study Group.....	Mondays
AA SOS Men's Group.....	Wednesdays
AA Meditation Group.....	Fridays
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: Seth J. Thomas, [pastor@saintjamespres.org](mailto:pastor@saintjamespres.org)

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

Music Director: Leah Bruno, [music@saintjamespres.org](mailto:music@saintjamespres.org)

Treasurer: Stefany Ness, [treasurer@saintjamespres.org](mailto:treasurer@saintjamespres.org)

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](#)

Give to general  
offering:



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

