



January 12, 2025

"Being Reoriented"

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**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

Leah Bruno

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ryan Knight

Holy Triune God, author of community,
come baptize us.

**Remind us what it means
to belong to one another.**

God who tears the heavens, come baptize us.

**Reveal to us your power
that ushers in new realms.**

God who calls us beloved, come baptize us.

**Declare to us your great delight
and hold us in your pleasure.**

God of vulnerability, come baptize us.

**Welcome us into the paradox
of strength that comes from weakness.**

Together, let us remember this day.

**In the Creator's love we are held,
into Christ's body we are baptized,
and by the Spirit's power, we are claimed.
All glory to God. Amen.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"How Firm a Foundation" - GTG 463

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In the waters of baptism, O God,
you have cleansed us and claimed us.
Forgive us for refusing your grace
and rejecting your name.
We have followed our own paths,
and they have led us far from you.
Help us to live into our baptisms,
to trust that all we need is in you,
for you have marked us as your own,
loving us without limit.
Wash us with your love again,
that with clean hearts
we may go in the way of Jesus.**

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 29 pgs. 504-505

**The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

SERMON READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 pg. 60

SERMON

"Being Reoriented"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"Baptized in Water" - GTG 482

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**

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

- GTG 408

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, January 19, 2024
"Being Renewed" John 2:1-11

GODLY PLAY: Holy Baptism

In this lesson we learn that Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church. For Christians, this rite is the gateway into the family of families we call the Church. We ask the children to remember or look forward to the day of their baptism by lighting candles from the light of the Christ Candle, since this is also the day they receive their "light."

The Godly Play room will open at 10:30am. Students will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

PUB THEOLOGY - Tomorrow, Monday, January 13

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday's from 6:30-7:30pm at Archer Ale House in Fairhaven. Childcare and carpooling are available at St. James beginning at 6:15pm and ending at 7:45pm. The next Pub Theology group will meet on Monday, January 13th.

Led by Jimmy and Jessica Parks, we'll explore themes of Christian ethics-ideas about good, evil, and the in-between, and how we live them out in everyday life. This is not a lecture or Bible study, but an opportunity to have an open discussion in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Jimmy and Jessica will facilitate the discussion and provide resources for deeper engagement, if desired. Outside readings are not required for participation but will allow for a richer conversation. Please reach out to jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com if you would like the resources used for discussion or if you have any questions.

INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE TIME

Join us beginning January 12th 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.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Curious about Handbells? We're having an Intro to Bells on Wednesday, Jan 15, from 7-8pm in the Horizon Rm. This won't be a rehearsal, but instead a time to learn about the bells and how to play them. Come and learn, with no pressure or obligation to progress to our Bell Choir! Please see Jenny Sue, Jim Gresham, or Leah Bruno with questions.

ST. JAMES WRITERS CIRCLE - February 6, 2025

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, and on Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM .

Writing Circle facilitators are Maureen Kosa and Carla Shafer.

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. 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 if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We have our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26th, 2025, following Sunday worship. All are welcome to attend, and active congregational members are welcome to vote.

LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week:

Psalms 29 (worship)

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (sermon)

Isaiah 43:1-7

Acts 8:14-17

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, 1/13	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Wednesday, 1/15	8:30am, Toddler time 6:30pm, Handbell rehearsal
Thursday, 1/16	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 1/19	10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/ 12:00pm, Deacons

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

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

Music Director: Leah Bruno, music@saintjamespres.org

Treasurer: Stefany Ness, treasurer@saintjamespres.org

Admin: Sharon King, office@saintjamespres.org

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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

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**

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)

