



May 18, 2025

"The New Commandment"

John 13:31-35

---

**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**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

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

Jean Seater

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God on high!

**Praise God, sun and moon.**

**Praise God, all you shining stars!**

Praise God from the earth,  
you sea monsters and ocean depths!

**Mountains and all hills,**

**fruit trees and all cedars,**

**praise the Lord!**

Kings and all peoples of the earth,  
princes and all rulers of the earth,  
praise the Lord!

**Old and young together;**

**all people praise the Lord!**

Let us worship God!

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

"For the Beauty of the Earth" - GTG 14

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God,

you command us to love one another,  
yet we hold grudges  
and refuse to work for peace.

You command us to care for all of creation,  
yet we neglect the earth  
and abuse nature through carelessness.

You command us to walk in the ways of Jesus,  
yet we too often walk our own way.

Forgive us, O God.

Guide us as we work toward  
a new heaven here on earth.

Lead us to reconciliation  
and a vision for your beloved community,  
as we share your love  
with your people everywhere.

## **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**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 pgs. 582-583

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Make My Life an Alleluia"

Ruth Elaine Schram

St. James Chancel Choir

## **SERMON READING**

John 13:31-35 pg. 108

## **SERMON**

"The New Commandment"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

## **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"O Holy City, Seen of John" - GTG 374

## **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**

Holy, Holy, Holy  
Arr. Kevin McChesney  
St. James Handbell Choir

## **\*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. *Easter time is here.*

## **\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"To God Be the Glory" - GTG 634

## 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, May 25, 2025**  
**"The Ethics of Love"**  
**John 14:23-29**

---



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!**

<https://fpcbellingham.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2856984>

### **GODLY PLAY: Knowing Jesus in a New Way**

The season of Eastertide extends Easter for six weeks and helps prepare for Pentecost. This period is a time of transition between Jesus' early ministry and the oncoming of the Holy Spirit. It is a time when the disciples, and others, began to know Jesus in a new way.

We hope you will join us at 10:15am for songs and memory verse time in the lounge. At 10:30, children will go downstairs to Godly Play, and adults will stay upstairs to worship. Students will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

### **BOOK CLUB - TOMORROW**

The St. James book club is currently reading *the Bright Side Sanctuary for Animals* by Becky Mandelbaum, a tender and funny debut novel, set over one emotionally charged weekend at an animal sanctuary in western Kansas, where maternal, romantic, and community bonds are tested in the wake of an estranged daughter's homecoming. We will meet tomorrow, the third Monday in May, May 19th, at 7pm on Zoom. Email Tracy at [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link. Books are available in the church office.

### **YOUTH GROUP -TODAY**

Calling all middle and high schoolers! Instead of our regular monthly meeting in April, we will have a bowling party this Sunday, May 18th after worship. We will have lunch and conversation at church and then head to the bowling alley. Please plan to pick up your youth by 2:30 from Park Bowl. Please let Tracy know if your youth is able to make it, [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org).

**ST. JAMES FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS** is back! On Saturday, May 31st, from 3-5 pm, we will again hold an afternoon of St. James performances and a silent auction of items donated by St. James artists, benefiting our St. James retreat fund. Artists of all kinds are needed! We are looking for anyone who would like to donate a piece of artwork. Artwork can include any kind of physical art, drawing, photographs, paintings, sculptures, woodwork, jewelry, textiles, etc. You can email Tracy at [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) with what you would like to contribute or any questions. Submissions for auction pieces are due by May 18th!

## **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

Want to be a part of an open conversation about life, theology, current events, and the Church? Grab coffee with Seth, Jessica, and Jimmy on Thursdays from 8:30-9:30 am at Makeworth Coffee (1201 N State St).

## **PUB THEOLOGY**

Pub Theology is back and meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays in May at Trackside from 6 - 7:30pm. Because Trackside is such a family-friendly location, we will not be offering childcare at church. We hope you will join us for this time led by Jimmy and Jessica Parks. This is not a lecture or Bible study, but an opportunity for 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](mailto:jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com) if you would like the resources used for discussion or if you have any questions.

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week May 18th:

Psalm 148 (worship)

Acts 11:1-18

John 13:31-35 (sermon)

Leviticus 19:9-18

Psalm 24:1-6

Revelations 21:1-6

## **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, 5/19	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Book Club, zoom
Wednesday, 5/21	8:30am, Toddler Time
Thursday, 5/22	8:30am, Coffee & Conversation at Makeworth 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 5:00pm, Festival of the Arts meeting, Lounge 6:00pm, SJPC Bell Choir 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 5/25	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 Grateful Hearts.....	Mondays
AA Men's Book Study Group.....	Mondays
AA SOS Men's Group.....	Wednesdays
AA Meditation Group.....	Saturdays
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
Linda's Tai Chi.....	Mondays
Little Sapling Music.....	Wednesdays/ Thursdays quarterly
Overeaters Anonymous.....	Saturdays
The Table Church.....	Sundays
Wild Hearts group.....	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)

