



August 31, 2025

"Becoming Who We're Meant to Be"

Romans 12:1-2

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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**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jessica Parks

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

Faye Hill

Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
**who delight in God's commandments.**  
They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright.  
**Those who love God are gracious,**  
**merciful, and righteous.**  
They are generous,  
sharing freely what they have received.  
**It is well with those who live in justice.**  
Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid.  
**Let us praise the Lord!**

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

"Ho, All Who Thirst" - GTG 479

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God,  
in Jesus you show us a way that is humble  
and that seeks the good of others.  
We confess that we go our own way;  
we elevate ourselves  
and ignore the needs of others.  
Free us from the temptation  
to pursue our own pleasure only.  
Help us to live in harmony  
with all your people,  
sharing one world  
and eating around one table,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

## **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.**

Micah 6:6-8 pg. 866

### **SERMON READING**

Romans 12:1-2 pgs. 161-162

### **SERMON**

**"Becoming Who We're Meant to Be"  
Jessica Parks**

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

**"For Everyone Born" - GTG 769**

## **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**

"Come Down, O Love Divine"

- GTG 282

## **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, September 7, 2025**  
**“Creation by the Word”**  
**Genesis 1:1-2:4**

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### **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 are able to more fully engage in the "Play" part of Godly Play. 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.

### **TODDLER TIME IS BACK!**

Beginning this Wednesday, September 3rd, Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:30am for ages four and younger. Come join us in the St. James Fellowship Hall for an open play time. Parents have a chance to socialize with other parents and enjoy free coffee while their children play. This is a free, unstructured playtime; while it will be staffed, parents/guardians must be present at all times. We provide a few toys but feel free to bring your own to share.

### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Calling all students, teachers, professors, parents, grandparents, and anyone else who would like to join, bring your backpacks next Sunday, September 7th for a special Blessing of the Back Packs during our worship service. We will pray for and encourage all our back to school folks. Everyone participating will receive a special backpack tag!

### **GODLY PLAY KICKOFF**

Godly Play lessons resume Sunday, September 7th. The Godly Play story will be told in service and then we hope you will join us for an ice cream sundae bar after worship. We will have the Godly Play classroom open and staffed so you can explore and ask questions.

## **MEAL FREEZER**

The Deacons will be starting a freezer meal service to provide a few meals to those in our congregation who are in need of a meal or two to help in the event of an illness, or emergency, or any other type of need where a precooked meal would come in handy. We are looking for help preparing a few meals a month. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Horizon room. Meals should be delivered in containers that do not need to be returned and labeled with the name of the meal, preparers name, and what kind of diet it fits i.e, vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, etc. If you are in need of a meal please coordinate with the Deacons.

## **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).

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week August 31st:

Proverbs Micah 6:6-8 (worship)

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Romans 12:1-2 (sermon)

Psalm 112

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

## **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

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Monday, 9/1	Church office closed in observance of Labor Day 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Wednesday, 9/3	8:30am, Toddler Time 10:00am, Grief Support group 5:30pm, CFF, zoom
Thursday, 9/4	8:30am, Coffee & Conversation at Makeworth 10:00am, SJPC Writers Circle 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 9/7	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)

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**Summer Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 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)

