



September 14, 2025

"The Binding of Isaac"

Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14

**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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev Dr. Seth Thomas

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Faye Hill

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
**that Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners.**

Though the strong wind of judgment blows,
all is not ended.

God will renew stubborn hearts
and soften stiff necks,
**for Jesus welcomed sinners
and ate with them,**

so we boldly come to make an offering of worship to the God of
mercy,
who seeks and saves the lost.
Let us rejoice in the grace of our Lord!

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"
- GTG 519

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
cast out any transgression you find there—
ransack, renovate, redecorate!
Deep in our hearts,
remove fearful features
and restore your original design.
The old lamps are dim;
bring new light into the darkness.
Make your dwelling place deep in our hearts,
and teach us wisdom,
so the hearts you transform may rejoice.

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

John 1:29 pg. 92

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON READING

Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14 pgs. 16-18

SERMON

"The Binding of Isaac"
Rev Dr. Seth Thomas

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"O for a Closer Walk with God" - GTG 739

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**

"Breathe on Me Breathe of God"

- GTG 286

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, September 21, 2025
“Jacob’s Dream”
Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23

GODLY PLAY: The Great Family/Abraham

We continue to seek the elusive presence of God. God was present at creation, blessing all that was made. Noah walked with God and was led by God's presence to build the ark that preserved life. Now Abraham and Sarah discover that God is present everywhere, putting their lives on the line to test the promises of God. 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

St. James book club is currently reading *The Great Divide* by Christina Henriquez. A powerful novel about the construction of the Panama Canal, casting light on the unsung people who lived, loved, and labored there. Copies of the book are available in the office. We will meet tomorrow evening, Monday, September 15th, at 7:00pm via zoom. Contact Tracy cfm@saintjamespres.org for the zoom link.

BELL CHOIR IS BACK! Our bell choir will rehearse on Thursdays from 6-6:45pm in the Horizon room, starting this Thursday, 9/18. If you're curious or interested or know for sure that you'd like to join us, please talk to Jenny Sue today after worship for more info.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTING! This year, we will be inaugurating the St. James Children's Choir, directed and accompanied by Leah Bruno. Children of any age may join, and those who may be shy are encouraged to bring an adult for support! Although regular attendance is encouraged, the choir is meant to be low-pressure, and kids who will not be present every Sunday may still join. Ample time will be given to learn each piece. Who: children of any age (accompanying adults welcome!) When: weekly, directly following the Sunday service; beginning October 5th in the sanctuary. Rehearsals will start with fun warm-up activities and we will be focusing on learning one main song The Friendly Beasts. Contact: Leah Bruno music@saintjamespres.org if you are interested or have any questions.

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.

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 September 14th:

John 1:29 (worship)	Psalm 14
Genesis 21:1-3, 22:1-14 (sermon)	Psalm 51:1-10
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Exodus 32:7-14
Luke 15:1-10	Timothy 1:12-17

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, 9/15	4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all
Wednesday, 9/17	8:30am, Toddler Time 10:00am, Grief Support group
Thursday, 9/18	8:30am, Coffee & Conversation at Makeworth 4:00pm, St. James Fitness, open to all 6:00pm, Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00pm, Choir rehearsal
Next Sunday, 9/21	10:30am, In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/

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

Children & Family Director: Tracy Caruso, cfm@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)

