



November 23, 2025

"Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles"

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

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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**

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Alice Bailey

Woe to the shepherds who destroy  
and scatter the sheep of my pasture!

I myself will gather my flock  
and bring them back to their fold.

**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

I will raise up for David a righteous branch,  
who shall reign and deal wisely  
and execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

God will give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us

to give light to those who sit in the  
shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy”  
- GTG 415

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious Lord,  
we are quick to identify our enemies  
and slow to name the ways we hurt others.  
You lead us in the ways of righteousness,  
and yet we prefer to walk our own path.  
We are called to follow your lead  
in creating a beloved community,  
yet we idolize wealth and power.  
Heal us and help us, O God.  
Turn us from the ways of sin,  
the means that create unjust ends.  
Grant that we may seek to be for others  
what you are for us:  
a source of light on the way to peace.

**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.

John 14:27 pg. 109

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Seek the Lord While He May Be Found"**

John Purifoy

St. James Chancel Choir

**SERMON READING**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 pg. 731

**SERMON**

**"Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles"**

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

**"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"**

- GTG 353

**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**

**"Acclamation in G Minor"**

Karen Thompson

St. James Bell 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. *Now to God draw near.*

## **\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" - GTG 39

## **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, November 30, 2025**

**"Daniel - Waiting in Hope"**

**Daniel 3:1-30**

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## **GODLY PLAY: Isaiah**

This lesson extends the presentation of The Prophets, and focuses on the book of Isaiah. 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. Children will be brought upstairs for the final hymn.

## **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 Goldfish, Graham crackers or gluten free pretzels. 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 [tracy@saintjamespres.org](mailto:tracy@saintjamespres.org) if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering.

## **PUB THEOLOGY - NOVEMBER 24th**

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 6:30-7:30pm at Stemma West. 508 Carolina St., Bellingham. Childcare is available at Stemma. Jimmy and Jessica Parks will facilitate a discussion with questions related to last week's sermon as well as current events. This is not a lecture or Bible study, but an opportunity to have an open discussion in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Please reach out to [jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyjamesjimbo@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR - REHEARSAL AFTER SERVICE**

Leah is hosting a Children's Choir at St. James. Rehearsals will be held after church this month in the sanctuary. All children are welcome, even if you haven't attended a prior rehearsal.

## **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 8:30-9:30am at St. James in the Lounge.

## **HOLIDAY JOY**

Our youth group is once again helping with the Interfaith Coalition Holiday Joy program. They decorated the Angel Tree set up in the Horizon room. This year we agreed to provide gifts for 13 children and families, so we need a lot of help! Please look at the gift tags and see if you can help by purchasing a gift for children and families in our community who need a little joy this season. If getting out to purchase a gift is too much effort but you would still like to help, consider making a donation of any amount to "Angel Tree". **Gifts will need to be brought UNWRAPPED to St. James by Sunday, December 7th.**

## **BOOK CLUB**

St. James book club is currently reading *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermister. A novel about how a writer's words profoundly impact the lives of nine diverse readers, revealing our deep interconnectedness. Copies of the book are available in the office. We will meet the third Monday in December, Monday, December 15th, at 7:00pm via Zoom. Contact Tracy [cfm@saintjamespres.org](mailto:cfm@saintjamespres.org) for the Zoom link.

## IT'S PUZZLE SEASON 🧩

These darker days call for cozy evenings, warm beverages, and a puzzle! St. James has some prolific puzzlers, and we can share. If you want to add to the St. James puzzle library, bring a puzzle and put it on the book rack in the narthex. And maybe we could put a puzzle in the Horizon Room to piece together, together. :) 🧩 (Complete puzzles only, please.)

## ADVENT FESTIVAL/ CHRISTMAS SWAP 🎄

Join us on Sunday, December 7th, immediately following worship, for our Annual Advent Festival and luncheon. Do you have ornaments and decorations that you're ready to part with? Do you wanna share with your friends at St. James? Bring gently used and ready to share ornaments, banners, and Christmas finery. We can swap and replenish each other's decorations as the season begins. Stay tuned for Advent Festival and Christmas Swap details.

## THANKSGIVING MEALS(S) 🦃

Are you looking for a place to eat Thanksgiving dinner? There are families in our community that would love to host an extra church-aunt or church-cousin. Email Pastor Seth if you are looking for a place to celebrate the day.

## LECTIONARY TEXTS

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week, November 23rd:

John 14:27 (worship)

Psalm 46

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 (sermon)

Colossians 1:11-20

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 23:33-43

Luke 1:68-79

## 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, 11/24      | 4:00pm, St. James Fitness<br>- if interested, speak with Mark Beaty<br>6:30pm, Pub Theology at Stemma West                                                                          |
| Tuesday, 11/25     | 10:30am, Women's Bible Study                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wednesday, 11/26   | 8:30am, Toddler Time                                                                                                                                                                |
| Thursday, 11/27    | TBD - St. James Fitness<br>Thanksgiving Day - Office closed                                                                                                                         |
| Next Sunday, 11/30 | 10:30am, In-person and streamed Sunday<br>Worship Service <a href="http://www.saintjamespres.org/live">http://www.saintjamespres.org/live</a><br>11:30am, Children's Choir practice |

## 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 the 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.*

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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](http://www.saintjamespres.org/live)

Give to general  
offering:



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

