



December 21, 2025

"The Word Made Flesh"

Psalm 130:5-8, John 1:1-18

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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**

Jessica Parks

Here in worship—  
**we pray together,**  
we stand together,  
**we sing together,**  
we listen together.  
**Here in worship—**  
**we are not alone.**

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,  
remember this moment.

**We are not alone.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

### **ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING**

King Family

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

**We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the  
door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a  
phone call after a long day.**

**We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us.

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news.  
May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here.

Love is world-changing.

Love is shining bright.

We only have to look for it.

*Light candle.*

**Thanks be to God for a love like that!  
Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
- GTG 113

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Shepherd of our souls,  
we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready.  
We have done too much, and not done enough.  
We have focused too much on ourselves,  
and not enough on others.  
Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we might be saved, we pray,  
Amen.

**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 130:5-8, pg. 574

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Pavane for a Silent Night"  
Ravel, Lieberger, & Shafferman  
St. James Chancel Choir

## **SERMON READING**

John 1:1-18 pgs. 91-92

## **SERMON**

"The Word Made Flesh"

Rev. Aaron Walters

## **\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
- GTG 121

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Evan & Heather Kosin,  
Chris & Carrie Pasquale, Lucya Rasmussen

## **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**

"Before the Paling of the Stars"  
Kramer & Rossetti  
Dave Nelson, tenor; Leah Bruno, piano

**\*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. *Advent time is here.*

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

"Go, Tell it On the Mountain"

- GTG 136

**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, December 28, 2025**  
**"Service of Nine Lessons & Carols"**  
**Jessica Parks, leading**

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## **GODLY PLAY: Advent IV**

This lesson, along with the rest of the Advent lessons, help the children to anticipate the mystery of Christmas. In the Advent lessons, we will move toward Bethlehem and arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle. This week's lesson focuses on the Magi and the birth of Jesus. We hope you will join us at 10:15 am 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.

## **ADULT GODLY PLAY**

Join us Sunday mornings December 14th and 21st at 9:00am for an adult only session of Godly Play. Come wonder with us during this time of preparing for the Great Mystery of Christmas.

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

Our Children's Choir, under Leah Bruno's direction, continues 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.

## **PUB THEOLOGY - DECEMBER 22nd**

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

## **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.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - DECEMBER 24th 7:00pm**

We hope you will all join us on Wednesday evening December 24th at 7:00pm for our Christmas Eve candlelight service. All are welcome, and any child who wishes will have the opportunity to participate in the telling of our Godly Play Christmas story.

## **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 St. James in the Lounge.

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary or worship texts for this week, December 21st:

Psalm 130:5-8 (sermon)

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

John 1:1-18(worship)

Romans 1:1-7

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

## **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, 12/22	4:00pm, St. James Fitness - if interested, speak with Mark Beaty 6:30pm, Pub Theology at Stemma West
Wednesday, 12/24	8:30am, Toddler Time 7:00pm, Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, 12/25	Merry Christmas!
Next Sunday, 12/28	10:30am, In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service <a href="http://www.saintjamespres.org/live">http://www.saintjamespres.org/live</a> 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](#)

Give to general  
offering:



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

