



December 7, 2025

"God is at Work"

Matthew 11:1-11, Isaiah 43:19-21

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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**

Jenny Sue LeSchander

Family of faith, God is at work!

**God is healing and creating,**

redeeming and dreaming,

**calling and sending,**

listening and loving.

**Yes, indeed, God is at work!**

So may we worship our God who never gives up.

**May we worship our God who holds onto hope.**

**Amen.**

### **ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING**

Teske & Book Families

In a world full of fear, where do you see  
glimmers of peace?

**We see glimmers of peace in the quiet  
of early morning, when people shake  
hands, when loved ones say they're sorry,  
and when the church sings together.**

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

Today we light the candle of peace as a  
reminder of this good news. May this  
flicker of light help us remember that  
even in a fearful world, peace is present.  
We only have to look for it.

*Light candle.*

Thanks be to God! Amen.

## **GODLY PLAY**

Tracy Caruso

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

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"  
- GTG 286

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

On-the-move God,  
we have every reason to hold onto hope.  
We have every reason to believe that spring will come,  
that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.  
And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.  
With anxious hearts we cry out to you,  
"Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?  
Will I ever make a difference?"  
Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun  
is shining.  
Show us the places where you are on the move.  
With open hearts 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**

Isaiah 43:19-21 pgs. 672-673

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

"Waiting for a King"

J. Paul Williams & Joseph M. Martin

St. James Chancel Choir

Jim Gresham, clarinet

#### **SERMON READING**

Matthew 11:1-11 pg. 11

#### **SERMON**

"God Is At Work"

Rev. Dr. Seth Thomas

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

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

- GTG 700

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

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

"A Light of Hope, a Song of Peace"

Mark Burrows

Jessica Parks & Holly Hagshenas, sopranos

Jenny Sue LeSchander & Pam Pries, altos

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**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts.

**We open them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**It is right to lift up thanks and praise.**

## THE INVITATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### WELCOME TO THE TABLE

"The body of Christ, given for you." **Amen.**

"The blood of Christ, shed for you." **Amen.**

## COMMUNION PRAYER & 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.**

### \*HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

- GTG 82

## 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 14, 2025**

**"The Word Accomplishes God's Purposes"**

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### **GODLY PLAY: Parable of the Deep Well**

Often students will ask what a parable is, this story is to try and help them find their own interpretation.

Everyone will begin in the worship service for our Godly Play story. Kids will be taken downstairs for work time and then will return for communion.

### **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.

### **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 donating any amount to "Angel Tree".

**Gifts will need to be brought UNWRAPPED to St. James by Sunday, December 7th.**

### **ADVENT FESTIVAL/ CHRISTMAS SWAP TODAY!**

Join us immediately following worship, for a time of food, crafts, cookie decorating, and more at our Annual Advent Festival and soup and bread 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.

### **MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS**

This is a fundraiser for the St. James Flower Committee. The poinsettias will decorate the St. James Chancel during Advent and be taken home on Christmas Eve evening or the following Sunday. Fill out the included order form to purchase a poinsettia(s) in honor/ memory/ etc of a loved one. Poinsettias will be on display in the Sanctuary on December 21st.

## **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.

## **COMMUNITY CAROLING**

All are invited to join us on December 14th at 3:00pm—we will be caroling at Chuckanut Assisted Living! Feel free to bring your jingle bells, Christmas attire, and favorite carols. Caroling books will be provided.

## **TODDLER TIME IS BACK!**

Join us on 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.

## **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.

## **LECTIONARY TEXTS**

For anyone wishing to study the lectionary texts for this week, December 7th:

Isaiah 43:19-21 (worship)

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 11:1-11 (sermon)

Romans 15:4-13

Psalms 72:1-7

Matthew 3:1-12

## **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, 12/8	4:00pm, St. James Fitness - if interested, speak with Mark Beaty 6:30pm, Pub Theology at Stemma West
Wednesday, 12/10	8:30am, Toddler Time 5:00pm, Finance
Thursday, 12/11	8:30am, Coffee & Conversation at St. James 11:00am, Memorial for Ralph Rinne 4:00pm, St. James Fitness - if interested, speak with Mark Beaty 6:00pm, SJPC Bell Choir 7:00pm, SJPC Choir Rehearsal
Next Sunday, 12/14	10:30am In-person and streamed Sunday Worship Service <a href="https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/">https://www.facebook.com/saintjamespres/</a> 11:30am, Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00pm, Session

## 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.....	Fridays
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 AI-Anon.....	Tuesdays
Linda's Tai Chi.....	Mondays
Little Sapling Music.....	Wednesdays/ Thursdays quarterly
Overeaters Anonymous.....	Saturdays
The Table Church.....	Sundays

## 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)

