

# St. James Presbyterian Church

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## GATHERING

WELCOME

INTROIT

*Newton*

Amazing Grace  
*Kathryn Zoerb*

GOD GATHERS US IN

One: Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.

***All: Our God is among us.***

One Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.

***All: Our God moves among us.***

One Watch and listen, for God is here.

***All: Our God dwells among us.***

One: Let us pray.

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate,  
God, the merciful, holy, blessed:

***All: Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.***

***Lift us into consciousness of your presence. Change us, move us, mold us for  
the better; So that, at the sound of your voice***

***At the call of our name***

***We will never be the same.***

One: May this worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus.

***All: Amen!***

HYMN #363

*Beach Spring*

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALTER

*NRSV*

Psalm 78: 1-4. 12-16

RESPONSE

***For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God  
within us, thanks be to God.***

CHAT WITH THEO

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Olive Dungan*

Eternal Life  
*Kathryn Zoerb*

SCRIPTURE

NRSV

Matthew 21: 23-32

RESPONSE

***“The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.”***

HYMN #363

*Sojourner*

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

SERMON

Promising An Open Future  
*Rev. Charles Best*

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

*(Time for personal reflection and confession)*

***Dear God, we often allow things from our past to dominate our present and close off our future. But you have promised that you love us no matter what, and so we offer our hurts, regrets, and resentments to you, trusting that you already know them and love us anyway. Help us to believe about ourselves what you believe about us: that we are worthy of love and respect. And help us to treat others as you have treated us: as those who deserve love and respect. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, the one who died on the cross to show us the depth of your love. Amen.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

## **RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Christine Valters Painter*

Praise Song for the Pandemic

OFFERING

Doxology  
Prayer of Dedication

HYMN #223

*(Psalm 103)*

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

HYMN #473 vs. 4

For the Beauty of the Earth