



August 6, 2023 9:15AM

“The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, having the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image.”

— Thomas Merton



Song – *Better Is One Day*

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.

For my soul longs and even faints for You.

For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.

I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere, thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask, and I would seek to see Your beauty,
to find you in the place Your glory dwells.

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God. Your Spirit's water for my soul.

I've tasted and I've seen, come once again to me.

I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You, to You.

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house.

Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere, thousands elsewhere.

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Welcome & Announcements

Children's Message

Reception of New Members – Paul & Joan Shelton

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(Prayer cards are available to share your joys and concerns and may be placed in the prayer box by the door, or you may email them to prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org, where they will then be shared with our Prayer Chain.)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song – *This Is Amazing Grace*

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?

The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?

The King of Glory, the King above all kings.
This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Whoa, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.
Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Yeah, this is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Whoa, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain. Worthy is the King who conquered the grave.
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, worthy, worthy, worthy!

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.
You laid down Your life that I would be set free.
Whoa, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.

Josh Farro, Phil Wickham, Jeremy Riddle

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Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:7

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

Message – Grace That Acts

Bailey Martin

Holy Communion

Song – *The Power of Your Love*

Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I've found in You.
And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the pow'r of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me; bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You –
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face,
The knowledge of your love as You live in me.
Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life
In living ev'ry day in the pow'r of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me; bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You –

Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.

Hold me close, let Your love surround me; bring me near, draw me to Your side.
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You –
Your Spirit leads me on in the pow'r of Your love.

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Benediction

Sharing Offerings

Out to Discipleship, and Into the World to Serve

Today's Greeters: Ed & Kay Smallwood
Today's Sound/PowerPoint Operator: Keith Walkowiak
Next Week's Greeters: William & Dawn Robertson
Next Week's Sound Operator: Matoka Snuggs
Next Week's PowerPoint Operator: Tucker Thorpe

*We have a nursery available for infants through age 4. An usher will be glad to direct you.
We always welcome children of all ages to join us in worship, and Worship Activity Bags are available at the entrance
if your child would like one.*

*If you are visiting us today, welcome! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card,
(found on the worship table), and return it to the offering basket or one of the greeters.
Thank you for worshipping with us at St. James today!*



***Scan this code to give
your offering online!***

What to know this week...

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 8/6 Common Thread contemporary worship, 9:15AM in Carson Hall
Discipleship Hour, 10:15AM throughout church campus
Sanctuary traditional worship, 11AM in the Sanctuary
St. James Youth, 4pm in Montague Hall
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall

Tues, 8/8 Library Committee, 9AM in the Library
Staff Meeting, 10AM in the Office

Wed, 8/9 Choir Rehearsal, 6PM in Music Room/Sanctuary

Thurs, 8/10 New Hope Strummers, 6:15PM in Music Room
Common Thread Band Practice, 7PM in Carson Hall

Sat, 8/12 Produce Packing, 8:30AM in Carson Hall
Private party, 2PM in Carson Hall

Project Agape deadline is NEXT Sunday! Don't forget to turn in your Project Agape boxes to St. James by Sunday, August 13! Remember to enclose \$5 in cash or check (payable to St. James) in each box to cover the shipping cost; we will send one check from the church with the boxes. If you have any questions, contact Ed or Kay Smallwood at edandkay.smallwood@gmail.com.

Hawaiian Luau Church Picnic on Saturday, August 19, 1-4PM. Come on, St. James: don't you want to enjoy some food, fun and fellowship with your church family? The deadline to sign up for the church picnic is NEXT SUNDAY, and a lot of names are missing from the list! We can't prepare enough food if we don't know that you're coming! Sign up **NOW** on the clipboard in the church lobby. If you can't get to the clipboard, contact Martha in the church office (919-876-5796 or office@stjamesraleigh.org) to add your name to the list. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Walkowiak at ktwalkowiak@gmail.com.

Promotion Sunday is August 20: New Kindergartners and 6th graders will promote into their new Discipleship classes, and 3rd graders will receive a new Bible. If you have a 3rd grader or a child/youth that has never received a Bible, please contact the office with the child's name and what service you will attend on August 20, and we'll inscribe a Bible just for them!

The 2023 **Stan Whitt Classic Golf Tournament** scheduled for August 26, 2023 **has been rescheduled for October 7, 2023.** This spring, our host course Zebulon Country Club reseeded their greens. Due to the weather, the greens will not be available for play by August 26, so we have worked with the course to reschedule for October 7. We apologize for this change. If you have any questions, please contact Milburn Holbrook (919-554-1419, 919-247-5233 or mholbr2@ncsu.edu).

Adult ASP Trip: We have dates set for a Fall ASP mission trip for those 18+. We'll be heading to Jonesville, VA Thursday, October 26-Sunday, October 29. Expected cost is \$100 per person. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Pastor Dan (dan@stjamesraleigh.org) by August 31!

Stephen Ministry Note: Our Stephen Ministry will begin a training series in October. Stephen Ministers are lay persons who have been trained and commissioned to provide Christian care for others. The care and friendship of a Stephen Minister can be a source of strength, guidance and comfort to persons going through difficult times. If you are interested in this ministry and feel called to serve as a Stephen Minister, please contact Pat Fasone (919-630-5909) for more information.