

# St. James United Methodist Church

646 Daniel Webster Highway, PO Box 895  
Merrimack, NH 03054

"Come ye after me,  
and I will make you to  
become fishers of men."

M a r k 1 : 1 7



Ministers: Rev. Lynne Mentzer and All the People!

Director of Music: Darlene Skene

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Office Telephone: 424-7459 Parsonage: 424-2758

Food Pantry: Donna Johnson 440-9597

Church E-mail: [stjamesmrmk@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesmrmk@gmail.com)

Prayer Request E-mail: [sjprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:sjprayerchain@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web: [stjames-umchurch.org](http://stjames-umchurch.org)

Facebook: St. James UMC

Welcome to on-line worship from St. James United Methodist Church!

We are pleased to have you as part of our family of faith today and every Sunday.

Visit [www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org) and click on online worship at the top of the homepage. Turn your sound on and follow along with this bulletin.

The announcements are at the end of the bulletin.

January 24, 2021  
Third Sunday after the Epiphany



**GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES**

GATHERING MUSIC	Darlene Skene
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Lynne Mentzer
INTROIT	Darlene Skene

**PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US**

OPENING PRAYER	Donna Wallace
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**HEARING THE WORD OF GOD**

CHILDREN'S TIME		
SCRIPTURE READING	Mark 1:14-20	Donna Wallace
SERMON		Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN

“Two Fishermen” No. 2101

Darlene Skene

Two fishermen, who lived along the Sea of Galilee,  
Stood by the shore to cast their nets into an ageless sea.  
Now Jesus watched them from afar, then called them each by name.  
It changed their lives, these simple men; they'd never be the same.

**(Refrain)**

**“Leave all things you have and come and follow me,  
And come and follow me.”**

And as he walked along the shore 'twas James and John he'd find,  
And these two sons of Zebedee would leave their boats behind.  
Their work and all they held so dear they left beside their nets.  
Their names they'd heard as Jesus called; they came without regret.

**(Refrain)**

O Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John beloved one,  
You heard Christ's call to speak good news revealed to God's own Son.  
Susanna, Mary, Magdalene who traveled with your Lord,  
You ministered to him with joy for he is God adored.

**(Refrain)**

And you, good Christians, one and all who'd follow Jesus' way,  
Come leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day,  
And listen as he calls your name to come and follow near;  
For still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.

**(Refrain)**

### **SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD**

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND GRATITUDE MOMENT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DEDICATION

**O God, you call us with great love and patience; yet, we either turn a deaf ear or refuse to believe. You call again; and our hearts stir within us. Again, and finally, we hear and follow. Receive the gifts of our hands and hearts this day, even as you receive our whispered response: “Yes, Lord. Yes.” In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

\* HYMN

“Jesus Calls Us” No. 398 (vs. 1,2,4)

Darlene Skene

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
Day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, “Christian, follow me!”

As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,  
Turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these!”

\* BLESSING

\* EXTROIT

Darlene Skene



This Week's Events at St. James – January 24, 2021		
Today, Sunday 1/24	9:30 am	Online worship
Tuesday, 1/26	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Trustees meeting
Wednesday, 1/27	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Next Sunday, 1/31	9:30 am	Online worship

# Announcements–January 24, 2021



## **COVID-19 update: Continue with online only worship**

An important agenda item at our January 12 church council meeting was to decide whether to go back to our socially distanced in-person worship services with live-stream option or to continue online-only worship. Keeping in mind the number of recently reported COVID cases in the area, the council unanimously voted to continue with online-only worship and reevaluate the situation on a monthly basis. The next church council meeting will be February 9.

## **Red Cross Blood Drive here at St. James UMC**

Our next blood drive will be Wednesday, January 27, from 1:30 – 7:00 pm. Schedule an appointment by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), using the [Red Cross Blood Donor App](#), calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

## **ZOOM In for Virtual Coffee Hour Wednesday Mornings**

At 10:30 AM each Wednesday morning, 16-20 church friends turn on their laptop computers and ZOOM in for our weekly virtual coffee hour. Invitations are e-mailed out to the entire church family no later than Tuesday afternoon – just click and join in on Wednesday morning. We check in with each other, share stories and God-moments, pray and laugh together. Won't you join us? If you haven't received your invitation by e-mail, please contact the church office. Hope to see you Wednesday!

## **The Clothes Closet is now accepting donations of clothing.**

The St. James Clothes closet is open by appointment only. Clothing donations are now being accepted, also by appointment. Please call the church office 424-7459 if you would like to make an appointment.

## **Lenten Book Study**

Our shared Advent bible study via ZOOM with new friends from the North Salem UMC has inspired us to offer a Lenten study in a similar manner. We will meet via Zoom from 7-8 pm on 6 Thursday evenings February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25. The book "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week" by Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story, raising ethical and spiritual questions for readers, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.. Books cost \$8.49 each and are available through the church office. Sign up by calling the church office at 424-7459 or email [stjamesmrmk@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesmrmk@gmail.com). We will send Zoom invitations by email.