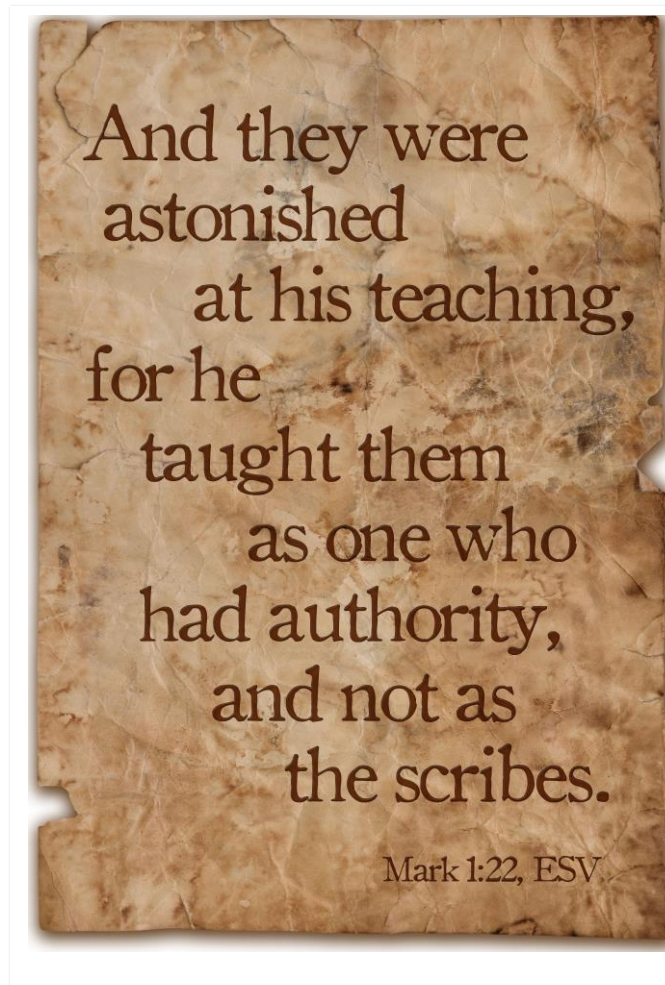


# St. James United Methodist Church

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



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  
Prayer Request E-mail: sjprayerchain@gmail.com  
Visit us on the web: 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 31, 2021  
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Welcoming Our New Members



**GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES**

GATHERING MUSIC

Darlene Skene

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

INTROIT

Darlene Skene

**PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US**

OPENING PRAYER

Pat Garland

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 1:21-28

Pat Garland

SERMON

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

HYMN

“Trust and Obey” No. 467 (vs. 1,2,4)

Darlene Skene

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
What a glory he sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

**Refrain**

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
But our toil he doth richly repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
But is blest if we trust and obey.

**Refrain**

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
Or we'll walk by his side in the way;  
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go;  
Never fear, only trust and obey.

**Refrain**

**SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD**

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND GRATITUDE MOMENT

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DEDICATION

**Gracious God, let us confess the truth of Jesus, not in fear but in joy. Let us trust and obey your Word, not for selfish gain but for the good of all. And let us sing his praises, not through stories long ago but through changed lives today. We confess our need for him even as we ask your blessing on all that we bring in his name: our gifts and ourselves. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

\* HYMN                      “Christ for the World We Sing”    No. 568 (vs. 1,2,4)                      Darlene Skene

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal;  
The poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with fervent prayer;  
The wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed,  
Redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with joyful song;  
The newborn souls, whose days, reclaimed from error’s ways,  
Inspired with hope and praise, to Christ belong.

\* BLESSING

\* EXTROIT

Darlene Skene

This Week’s Events at St. James – January 31, 2021		
Today, Sunday 1/31	9:30 am	Online worship
Tuesday, 2/2	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Finance Committee meeting
Wednesday, 2/3	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Next Sunday, 2/7	9:30 am	Online worship and Communion

# Announcements–January 31, 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.

## **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.

## **Ash Wednesday**

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be available online at 7:00 pm on February 17. In a similar fashion to in-person communion, you may come to the church for imposition of ashes at noon and 7 pm using safe COVID-19 practices. Please enter through the side door at the top of the ramp, wear masks, and maintain 6 ft. distance between yourself and others.

## **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.