

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

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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 and click on online worship at the top of the homepage. Turn your sound on and follow along with this bulletin.

February 17, 2021
ASH WEDNESDAY
worship

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.”*

Psalm 51:10

GATHERING MUSIC

Darlene Skene

WELCOME AND EXPLANATION OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Cooke

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives our sin, redeems our lives, and renews our spirits.

God’s mercy endures forever. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Susan Cooke

O God, maker of all things and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sin and lead lives worthy of your calling, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

HYMN “Just as I Am, Without One Plea” No. 357 (vs. 1,5,6) Darlene Skene

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 63:1-4 Susan Cooke
SPECIAL READING AND REFLECTION “*The Cracked Cup*” Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN “Fill My Cup, Lord” No. 641 Darlene Skene

Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord.
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Lynne Mentzer

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Therefore, ashes are to us a sign of our mortality. Yet, by your gracious acts through Christ and Spirit, we are given everlasting life. Therefore, mortality is not the end. We hereby confess our trust and hope in the One who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES AT 12 NOON AND 7 PM

All who desire may come to the church at noon or this evening for the imposition of ashes. Ashes will be applied to forehead or hand by sanitary cotton swabs. Pastor will wear gloves; all will wear masks and physical distance.

HYMN

“Amazing Grace” No. 378 (vs. 1,2,6)

Darlene Skene

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

When we’ve been there then thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

The Cup of Our Life by Joyce Rupp, Ave Maria Press, Indiana, 2005.