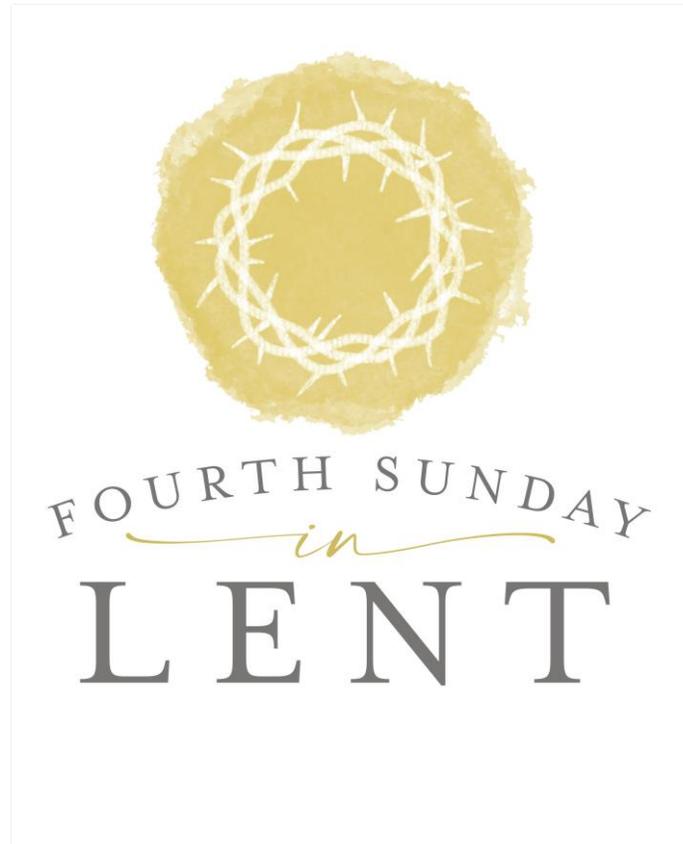


# St. James United Methodist Church

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.

March 14, 2021  
Generosity Series “Risky Business”  
and



# Fourth Sunday IN LENT

## GATHERING AS THE FAMILY OF GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

Darlene Skene

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

INTROIT

Darlene Skene

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION TO THE LENTEN STORY

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Carole Vandermark

**It is so hard to not be afraid. Sometimes our fear makes us less than compassionate, and more judgmental. Forgive us, O God. Encourage us to extravagant acts of love, especially when we are frightened. You entered our story through Jesus, now help us to enter fully into the story of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Know this: there is no limit on love. Like one flame lighting candle after candle, we lose nothing by giving more. We are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a God who wants us to live fully, through Son and Spirit.**

## ENTERING THE LENTEN STORY

HYMN                      "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" No. 526                      Darlene Skene

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

SCRIPTURE STORYTIME                      Mark 14: 3-9                      with Robin House

ARTWORK                      *Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet*, German School, 19<sup>th</sup> Century

A VOICE FROM THE CROWD                      Carole Vandermark

REFLECTION                      *The First Dinner: Risking Rejection*                      Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN                      "Freely, Freely" No. 389                      Darlene Skene

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus name,  
And in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his love as he told me to.

**(refrain)**

**He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live."**

All power is given in Jesus' name, in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,  
And in Jesus' name I come to you, to share his power as he told me to.

**(refrain)**

## PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE                      Rev. Lynne Mentzer

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.**

**GIVING GENEROUSLY AS WE HAVE RECEIVED**

RISKING REJECTION

Lesley Fallu

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND TITHES

**O God, as we ask your blessing on the gifts and tithes we bring this week, we pause to thank you for blessing us with a call to generosity. A call to give as the woman gave to Jesus, and as Jesus gives to us: freely and open-heartedly. It is for this kind of love that we pray. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

HYMN “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love” No. 2223 (vs. 1,2,4) Darlene Skene

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

**(Refrain)**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we’ll spread the news the God is in our land:

**(refrain)**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:

**(refrain)**

BLESSING

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

EXTROIT

Darlene Skene

*Worship materials used with permission from Marcia McFee and the Worship Design Studio; “Art in the Christian Tradition” from the Vanderbilt Divinity Library; and Entering Into the Passion of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine.*

This Week’s Events at St. James – March 14, 2021		
Today, Sunday 3/14	9:30 am	Online worship
Tuesday, 3/16	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	SPRC meeting
Wednesday, 3/17	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Thursday, 3/18	7:00 pm	Lenten Bible Study via Zoom
Saturday, 3/20	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
Next Sunday, 3/21	9:30 am	Online worship

# Announcements–March 14, 2021

**Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 14** Turn Your Clocks Ahead this weekend.

## **Resume in-person Worship on Palm Sunday!**

We are happy to announce that we will return to in-person worship beginning on Palm Sunday, March 28. Since physical distance guidelines limits the capacity of the sanctuary, please call or email the church office with your reservations. A live-stream option is available for those who cannot attend in-person.

## **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!

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

Our next blood drive will be Tuesday, March 30, from 1:30 – 7:00 pm. Schedule an appointment by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://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.

## **Lenten Book Study**

It's not too late to join our Lenten book study. We meet via Zoom from 7-8 pm on Thursday evenings. The remaining dates are March 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. 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.



## **Easter Flower Order Form**

Easter flowers are available this year at a cost of \$10 per plant. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office P.O Box 895, Merrimack, NH 03054 with your check marked "Easter Flower Fund" no later than March 21, 2021. Please limit two names for each plant ordered; please use the phrase "Loved Ones" for multiple names (more than two) or you may purchase several plants to honor individual love ones.

Thank you for your help in making our altar more beautiful during the Easter season.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Total number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: I will pick up my plant \_\_\_\_\_ Please give my plant to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_