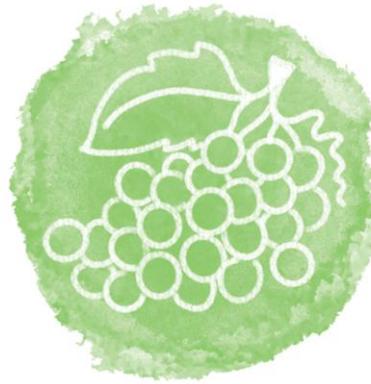


St. James United Methodist Church

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



FIFTH SUNDAY
in
LENT

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 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 21, 2021
Generosity Series “Risky Business”
and



Fifth 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

George Fisher

Sometimes we just aren't paying attention. We keep our heads in the sand rather than attend to the needs of your people. Forgive us, O God. Guard us from distancing ourselves, and help us to see what's right in front of us. 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: our lives contain endless opportunities to be in humble service to friends and strangers. 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

“Jesu, Jesu” No. 432 (vs. 1,5)

Darlene Skene

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,

Fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

Refrain

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you.

Refrain

SCRIPTURE STORYTIME

John 13: 3-16

with Robin House

ARTWORK

Detail from a Mural by David Paynter

A VOICE FROM THE CROWD

George Fisher

REFLECTION

The Last Supper: Risking Loss of Friends

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN

“Let Us Break Bread Together” No. 618 (vs. 1-3)

Darlene Skene

Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

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 THE LOSS OF FRIENDS

George Kenson

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND TITHES

O God, as we ask your blessing on the gifts and tithes we bring this week, we also ask for your blessing on the gift of friendship, inspired by the self-giving and forgiveness of Jesus. Let us be generous in all our relationships as faithful tribute to him. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

HYMN

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” No. 301 (vs. 1,3,4)

Darlene Skene

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary’s mountain.

(Refrain)

**In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me.

(refrain)

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

(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 21, 2021		
Today, Sunday 3/21	9:30 am	Online worship
Tuesday, 3/23	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Trustees meeting
Wednesday, 3/24	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Thursday, 3/25	7:00 pm	Lenten Bible Study via Zoom
Saturday, 3/27	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
Next Sunday, 3/28	9:30 am	In-person Palm Sunday worship with live-stream option

Announcements–March 21, 2021

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, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Holy Week Worship Please contact the church office to make your reservation for Sunday services.

Palm Sunday	March 28	9:30 am	Arrive 10 minutes before the service for outdoor hymn sing while wearing masks
Maundy Thursday	April 1	5-6 pm	In-person communion
Good Friday	April 2	12- 3 pm	Church open for quiet prayer
Easter Sunday	April 4	6:00 am 9 and 11am	Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Watson Park St. James Church Easter Sunday services with communion. Arrive 10 minutes before the service for outdoor hymn sing while wearing masks.



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 _____