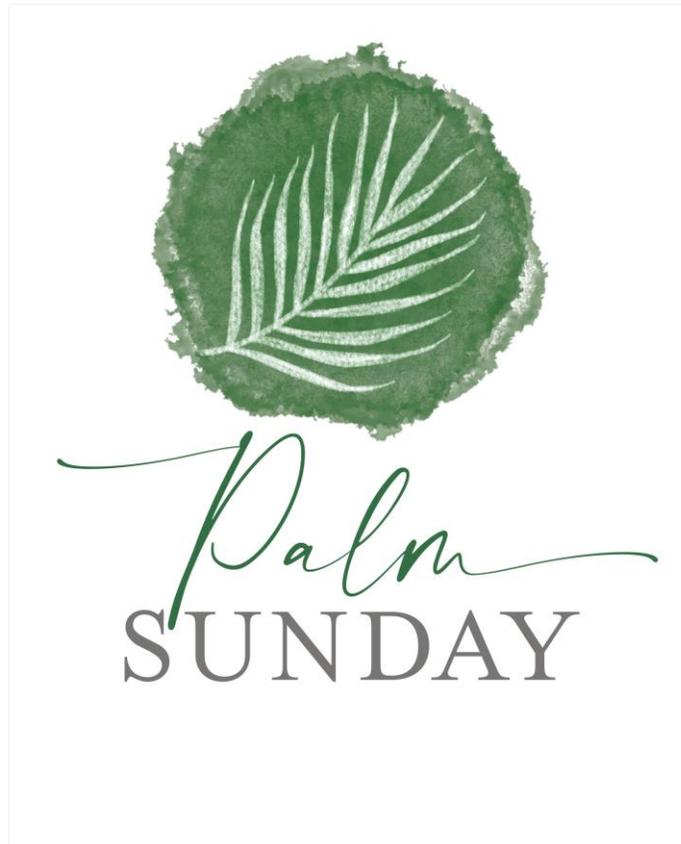


St. James United Methodist Church

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.

The announcements are at the end of the bulletin.



Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE	Darlene Skene
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Lynne Mentzer
GREETING OF PEACE	
INTROIT	Darlene Skene
CALL TO WORSHIP	Susan Cooke

Leader: Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

People: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Leader: Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your hearts. Recite these words to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

People: Hear, O Israel: the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Amen.

HYMN	“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” No. 278 (vs. 1-2)	Darlene Skene
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Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Susan Cooke

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

READING FROM THE PSALMS

Psalm 146:1-10

Susan Cooke

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 19:29-40

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

Response: The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story" No. 156 (vs. 1, 4)

Darlene Skene

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, thank You for this day as we gather together once again to worship and praise You. We have endured a very long time of isolation and loneliness; yet, even as we say this, we remember the isolation and loneliness of Jesus during his last week on earth. Therefore we confess our love for Him, our gratitude to You, and our need for your Spirit within and among us always. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.

INVITATION TO GENEROUS GIVING AND LIVING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, today we bring our gifts and tithes in gratitude for all the blessings we have received from your hand. We also bring our promises of continued support for the work of your church for the coming year. Bless these gifts and givers to your good purposes; we pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

CLOSING HYMN

"Lord of the Dance" No. 261

Sung Outside

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came to me and the dance went on.

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,
 The holy people said it was a shame;
 They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
 and they left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
 It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
 They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
 But I am the dance and I still go on.

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
 I am the life that'll never, never die;
 I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain



This Week's Events at St. James – March 28, 2021		
Today, Sunday 3/28	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 3/30	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	1:30 - 7pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, 3/31	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Thursday, 4/1	5-6 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
Friday, 4/2	12-3 pm	Good Friday – Church open for quiet prayer.
Saturday, 4/3	8:00 am	Men's breakfast at Joey's Diner
	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
Next Sunday, 4/4	6:00 am	Sunrise Easter Service at Watson Park
	9 and 11am	Easter services at church with outdoor hymns 10 minutes prior

Announcements–March 28, 2021

Spring Has Sprung in the Clothes Closet

Anyone available to help bring spring to the Clothes Closet will be dearly appreciated Monday March 29 and Tuesday March 30 from 9am until noon. No need to sign up... just show up (wearing a mask, of course).

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.

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!

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.

Men's Breakfast

The St. James United Methodist Men (UMM) invites you to their monthly breakfast on Saturday, April 3 at 8:00 am at Joey's Diner in Amherst. All men are invited to attend. Please wear a mask when entering the diner.

Hygiene Kits

We are now gearing up for our annual April collection drive of Hygiene Kits for **UMCOR**, United Methodist Committee on Relief. The contents of each kit have been selected with care, based on years of experience to make them as useful as possible, whenever and wherever they are sent. It is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more. Won't you please help by making a monetary contribution to pay for kits to be assembled.

The kits I've assembled cost \$5.00. This includes the \$1.00 for toothpaste. A check can be made out to St James with a memo for "Hygiene Kits".

Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Barb at cherab@comcast.net, cell phone 494-1959.