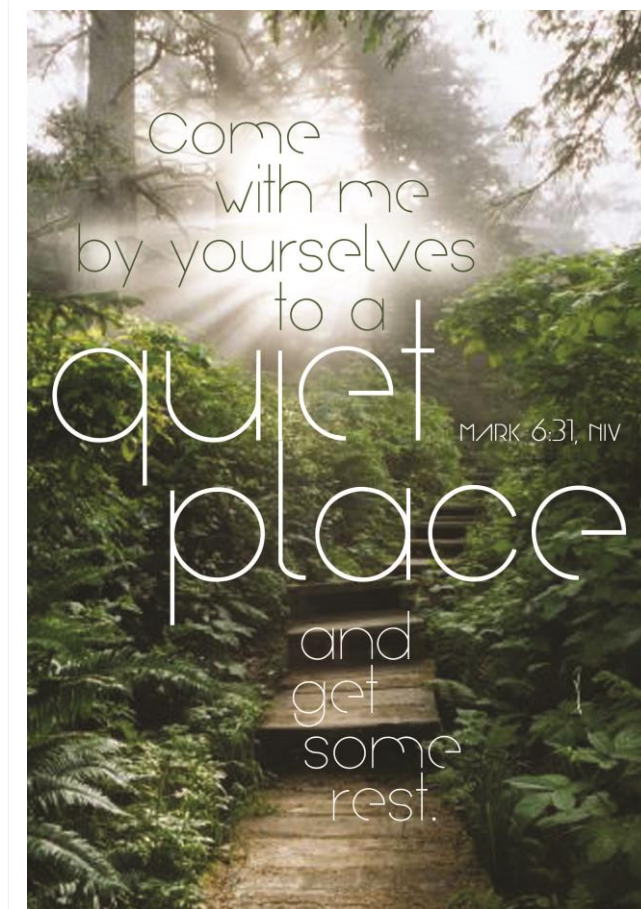


St. James United Methodist Church

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 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.

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God
by David and Robin House in memory of Jennie Duncan.*

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 18, 2021



GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES

GATHERING MUSIC Katie Rogers
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Lynne Mentzer
GREETING OF PEACE
INTROIT "In Christ Alone" No. 3105 Katie Rogers and Darlene Skene

PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US

CALL TO WORSHIP Carole Vandermark
L: Friends, how would you describe your days?
P: busybusybusybusybusybusybusybusybusy!
L: And how would you describe your spirits?
P: pantingpantingpantingpantingpantingpanting...
L: Is this what Jesus wants for us?
P: noooooooooooooooooo!
L: In Galilee and in the world today, Jesus calls his disciples to --
P: r—e—s—t
L: Friends, let us rest and renew our spirits in the Spirit of Christ.
P: Yes, please! Amen.

HYMN "Come and Find the Quiet Center" No. 2128 Katie Rogers

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 2:14-22

Carole Marrone

GOSPEL READING

Mark 6:30-34

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

SERMON

The Lord is My Pace Setter *(an adaptation of the 23rd Psalm by Toki Miyashina)*

The Lord is my Pace Setter, I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness,
Which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency,
through calmness of mind; and his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,
by anointing my head with his oils of tranquility,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,
and dwell in his house for ever.

HYMN

"He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought" No. 128

Katie Rogers

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.**

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

UMH No. 95

**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.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND DEDICATION

Gracious God, forgive us for equating busyness with value, for we know that our value is in being your children. Forgive us for forgetting to rest and renew our spirits in you, for we know that you made us more than flesh and blood. And in knowing these things, we also know you made us to be grateful and generous. Bless the gifts we bring this day, and guide us to use them to bless others in your holy name. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

HYMN

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee” No. 2158

Katie Rogers

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Refrain

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Refrain

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.

Refrain

BLESSING

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Katie Rogers



Announcements–July 18, 2021



Refreshments Sign up for Coffee Fellowship

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments for fellowship time after Sunday worship. There is a sign-up sheet in the office hallway.

Going on Vacation? Be Sure to Go to Church, too!

With the number of vaccines increasing and the incidence of COVID-19 decreasing, folks are happily planning long-overdue summer vacations once again. As in previous years, this year we’re asking you to bring something back from your travels – a bulletin from a church you visited while away AND at least one good idea you picked up from your host congregation. We’ll share bulletins and ideas during worship starting this month. May your time away refresh your spirit and expand our sense of community with sister churches.

Need a Hand Around the House?

Youth from Our Lady of Mercy Church are participating in workcampNE on August 1-6. workcampNE is a non-profit organization that has been repairing homes in the Northeast for over 30 years at no cost to the homeowner. They do interior and exterior painting, power washing, light carpentry, landscaping, drywall, and flooring and more. To sign up, go to the Our Lady of Mercy website www.olmnh.org and click on *resident project sign-up* under the OLM Work Camp heading.

Celebrating the Life of Malcom Forbes

Long time church member Malcom Forbes passed away on February 9. Because of COVID-19, the memorial service on February 13 was attended by close family members only. Church members are invited to attend Malcom’s committal service at Last Rest Cemetery on Saturday, August 7 at 10:00 am followed by a celebration of life and refreshments here at St. James fellowship hall. If you would like to bring food to the celebration, there is a sign-up sheet in the office hallway.

Vacation Bible School

Friday, August 13 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm and Saturday, August 14 from 9 am to 3 pm. At Rocky Railway VBS, kids will discover that Jesus’ power can pull them through life’s ups and downs. Rocky Railway is filled with incredible bible-learning experiences kids can see, hear, touch, and even taste! Visit our online registration webpage for volunteers and participants: www.vbspro.events/p/9a8228 or contact the church office. There is also a link to the registration webpage on the St. James website www.stjames-umchurch.org

This Week’s Events at St. James – July 18, 2021		
Today, Sunday 7/18	9:15 am	Outdoor children’s message
	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 7/20	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
Wednesday, 7/21	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Next Sunday, 7/25	9:15 am	Outdoor children’s message
	9:30 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Community Arts Ministry Open House