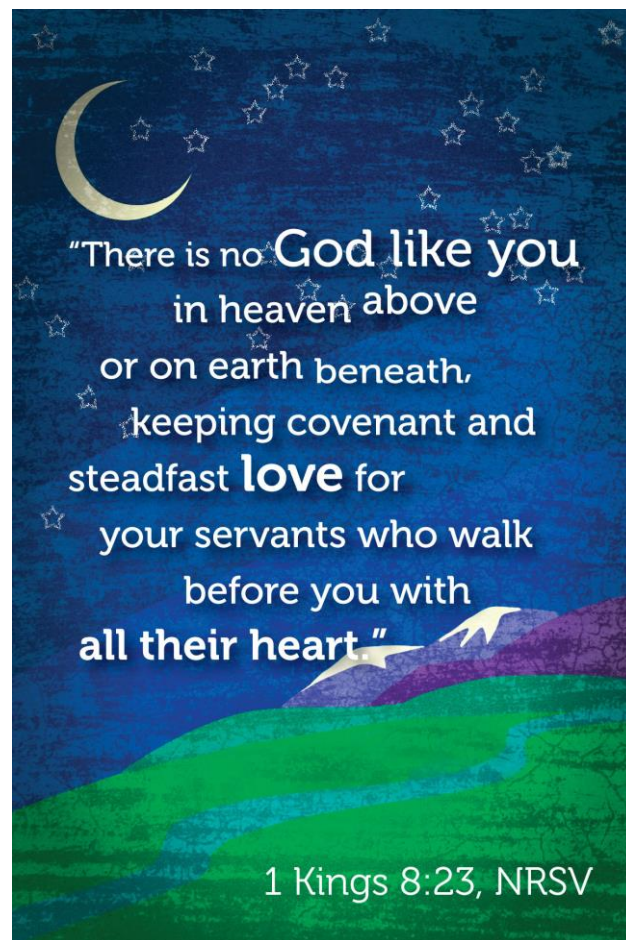


# St. James United Methodist Church

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.

*The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God  
by Lynne And Bob Snow in memory of Rob Snow.*

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
August 22, 2021



**GATHERING AS JESUS' DISCIPLES**

GATHERING MUSIC	Darlene Skene
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Lynne Mentzer
GREETING OF PEACE	
INTROIT	Darlene Skene

**PRAYING AS JESUS TAUGHT US**

CALL TO WORSHIP	Nancy Burt
L: King David wanted to build a temple to honor God.	
<b>P: But God said no.</b>	
L: King Solomon wanted to build a temple to honor God.	
<b>P: And God said yes.</b>	
L: Sometimes, even when we pray for what we believe is good --	
<b>P: God says no. Or not yet. Or wait.</b>	
L: Friends, as we worship and pray together this day --	
<b>P: Let us learn from the past and accept all of God's answers as blessings.</b>	

HYMN                      "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" No. 64                      Darlene Skene

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, forgive us for assuming that when we pray earnestly, you will do as we ask. Help us instead to pray in faith, to trust in your grace, and to let go of our own expectations. In other words, to live with eyes, ears, minds and hearts open and dedicated to seeking your better way; the way that leads to eternal life with you. Amen.**

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**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 84:1-4, 10-12          Nancy Burt

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT    1 Kings 8 (*excerpts*)

SERMON          Rev. Lynne Mentzer

HYMN          "Sweet Hour of Prayer" No. 496          Darlene Skene

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,  
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share  
Of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!  
With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,  
And gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,  
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

## SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Silent Prayer

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.**

SHARING THE BLESSINGS OF GENEROSITY

Vacation Church Visits and Weekly 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 DEDICATION

**Generous God, accept and bless these gifts and tithes, love offerings in response to your great love for all your people. Guide us to grow in faithful giving, and in faithful living, as followers of your Son, our Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

HYMN

"We Sing to You, O God" No. 2001

Darlene Skene

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,  
Let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised, in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

We wandered far from home out in a desert land,  
You shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within your arms and sheltered us against the storm.

You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,  
Who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light and air and trust in your unfailing care.

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
The everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is just, you are the God in whom we trust.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lynne Mentzer

POSTLUDE

Darlene Skene

# Announcements–August 22, 2021



## **Wearing Masks in Church**

Taking into consideration the recent increase of COVID cases locally and statewide, the St. James Church Council voted to ask all congregants to wear masks to Sunday worship services regardless of vaccination status effective September 1. All other aspects of worship will remain the same - no reservations required, choose your own seat, and we'll still sing hymns. We also encourage everyone to get vaccinated for COVID-19 if you haven't done so already.

Groups that use our building will follow current COVID guidelines from their parent organizations (BSA, Girl Scouts, Red Cross, etc.)

## **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, 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.

## **School Kits for UMCOR**

We have started our annual collection drive of School Kits for **UMCOR**, United Methodist Committee on Relief. We will be collecting items to complete these kits throughout the month of August. Won't you please help by purchasing the items needed or by making a monetary contribution to pay for kits being assembled? Our greatest needs are 70 count one subject notebooks (3 needed for each bag). Other items include crayons, unsharpened pencils, pencil sharpeners (>1.5 inches), 30 centimeter rulers, blunt tipped scissors and 2.5 inch erasers. The cost to assemble the kits is \$3.30. A check can be made out to St James with a memo for "School Kits". If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Barb 494-1959.

## **Summertime Conversation & Connection with Bishop Devadhar**

Saturday, August 28 from 2-4 pm at Wanakee, 75 Upper New Hampton Rd., Meredith, NH. This in-person gathering will be an informal time for all in the Granite District to gather with the Bishop. Please bring a lawn chair as we hope to gather outside. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP by August 25 on the Granite District website [www.neumc.org/GR](http://www.neumc.org/GR) and click on GRD Events and Meeting Links.

## **Altar Flower Price Increase**

Beginning with the first Sunday service in September, Merrimack Flower Shop will raise the price of our weekly altar flower arrangements from \$20 to \$25.

## **Community Arts Ministry Upcoming Programs**

Programs beginning in September include Kindermusik®, Healthy School Snacks, Bible Journaling, Scrapbooking, and a Family Nature Walk. More details are available in the church office and on the church website [www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org).

## Sunday School

Sunday school starts on September 5 for children age 3 to grade 12. Registration forms are available in the church office and on the church website [www.stjames-umchurch.org](http://www.stjames-umchurch.org). Volunteers needed: If you would like to share your love of God with children, volunteer as a Sunday school teacher! Contact the church office so we can have you fill out a background check form.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids of all ages can bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, September 12 for a special back-to-school blessing.

## Travel Opportunity: Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Join the New England Conference Episcopal Office on an 11 day Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, starting at \$3,098 from Boston, MA departing on February 14, 2022. Visit the Conference website [www.neumc.org/leadershiplearning/spiritualformation/holy-land](http://www.neumc.org/leadershiplearning/spiritualformation/holy-land) for more information.

**Note about passports:** For those of you considering making the pilgrimage but do not yet have a passport, please note that the regular application process for U.S. passports is taking up to six months. The expedited process is still an option, but is taking longer than usual as well. Also note that your passport should be valid for at least 6 months beyond your travel dates.

This Week's Events at St. James – August 22, 2021		
Today, Sunday 8/22	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, 8/24	9:00 am	Clothes Closet
	9:30 am	Food Pantry
	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, 8/25	10:30 am	Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour
Next Sunday, 8/29	9:30 am	Worship