St. James United Methodist Church

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Hyuk Seonwoo and All the People!
Pastor's office hours: Tues – Thurs 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Office Administrator hours: Tues - Thurs 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Office phone: 603-424-7459 e-mail: stjamesmrmk@gmail.com
www.stjames-umchurch.org
Prayer Request E-mail: sjprayerchain@gmail.com

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.

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

ENTRANCE

GATHERING MUSIC — Choir

GREETING — Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
The risen Christ is with us.
Praise the Lord!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS — Carol Marrone

OPENING PRAYER — Together

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent, remind us that You bring peace and light into our darkness. Quiet our pace, turn our hearts toward You, and make us ready to welcome Your Son, our Savior. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

***** HYMN OF PRAISE "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (UMH 140) — Together

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope tor tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Refrain

BREATH PRAYER Breathe in: "Immanuel" Breathe out: "Hope Now"

HYMN FOR ILLUMINATION "Spirit of the Living God" UMH 393 Together

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ANTHEM Choir

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 13:32-37 Carol Marrone

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Stay Awake!" Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (UMH 196) Together

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

Together

Pray the Lord's Prayer in any version or language you feel comfortable with.

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Online worshippers can participate in the offering via PayPal by scanning the QR code below.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Choir

* DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH 94 Together

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" (UMH 702) Together

Sing with all the saints in glory, sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness we, awaking, know the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, there on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it; Christ has passed the eternal gates.

Life eternal! Heaven rejoices: Jesus lives, who once was dead.
Join we now the deathless voices; child of God, lift up your head!
Patriarchs from the distant ages, saints all longing for their heaven,
Prophets, psalmists. Seers, and sages, all await the glory given.

Life eternal! O what wonders crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amidst earth's closing thunders, saints shall stand before the throne!
O to enter that bright portal, see that glowing firmament;
Know with thee, O God Immortal, "Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!"

*DISMISSAL with BLESSING Rev. Hyuk Seonwoo

The flowers which grace our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by the House family in memory of Phil Marmurowski.

Who is helping in worship next week?

The following people will help worship run smoothly next Sunday December 6.

Ushers: Joyce Hawkins and Dick Wallace
Greeters: Doug and Linda Wilson
Liturgist/Worship Leader: Caitlyn Aierle
Refreshments: Brenda DuLong and Lesley Fallu.
Counters: Robin House, Joyce Hawkins, Carol Hurwitch

Announcements – November 29, 2026



Free Books

Please help yourself to the books from the bookshelf in the office hallway.

Gathering for Spiritual Enrichment

Pastor Hyuk will lead us for a time of reflection, embodied spirituality and contemplative prayer using readings from *Here and Now* by Henri Nouwen and *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp. We will meet in the parlor on Wednesdays either at 10 am or 7 pm starting December 2. Please purchase *Here and Now* by Henri Nouwen at your favorite bookseller. *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp is recommended but not required.

God With Us

Join DS David for a free four-week Zoom Advent Study on Sunday nights during Advent starting November 29. We will journey together through the material "*God With Us: Advent Promises for a Just World",* a free online resource from GCORR.
Through Scripture and conversation, we'll explore **hope, peace, joy, and love** and consider how these Advent promises call us toward justice, equity, and belonging in our communities. Register and download reading materials and Zoom link on the district website www.neumc.org/gr

Online Advent Prayer Journey Offered by Rolling Ridge

Sundays during Advent from 6-7 pm (Nov 29-Dec 27), Rolling Ridge will offer online reflections and contemplative sharing using illustrations and meditations from *Honest Advent* by Scott Erickson. Register at www.rollingridge.org.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 5, 2026 from 9-11 am in the Fellowship Hall here at St. James Church
Join us for a festive morning of fun, food and holiday cheer! Enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast. Visit and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Call the church office 603-424-7459 for reservations or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. $10 adults, $8.00 children, under 5 free.

December Men's Breakfast Here at St. James

Instead of meeting at the diner in December, the St. James United Methodist Men (UMM) will attend the Breakfast with Santa event here at St. James at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 5.

Ladies' Holiday Potluck Dinner and Cookie Swap

All of the ladies of St. James are invited to a holiday potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 15 at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and a dozen of your favorite holiday cookies to exchange. Boxes will be provided to bring your cookie selection home.
See Brenda DuLong if you need more information.

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2026
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

New Home for Donation Bins

The blue collection bins that were on the corner bookshelf in fellowship hall have been moved to the Parlor for easier weekday access. We have bins for eyeglasses for the Lion's Club, aluminum can tabs for the Shriners, used postage stamps for *Stamps for the Wounded*, Scarves for *Operation Care for Troops*, greeting cards and prayer shawls for the Caring Ministry. Read more about these ministries in the December church newsletter.

The Upper Room

Thanks to a generous donation from Carole Vandermark, we now have copies of *The Upper Room* daily devotional magazine available for our parishioners. They are on the bookshelf in the Parlor.

Winter Concert

Merrimack Concert Association will present *A Cinematic Winter* at the Merrimack High School on Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 2:00 pm. Adults $14, seniors 60+ $12, students $8. Visit www.merrimackconcert.org/tickets for details.