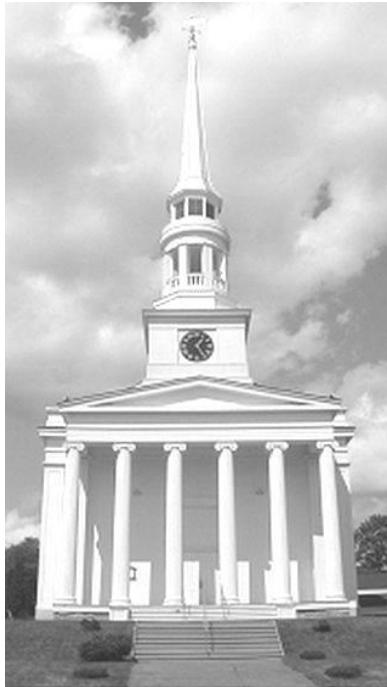


First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

*Come with hope or despair,
expectation, or disappointment, and
seek God even as God seeks you.*

**ORDER FOR WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

***ORDER OF WORSHIP
EASTER SUNDAY***

March 31, 2024

10 a.m.

*Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available—
please ask an usher if you require them.*

Thank you for turning off electronic devices before worship begins.

**Please stand if you are able.*

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

The Strife is O'er

Arr. Krug

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Arr. Lasky

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Arr. Lasky

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

Regent Sq. 87.87.87

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.

Christ has brought us heaven's choicest; heavenly music, let it ring.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Easter people, let us sing.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Beloved church, behold the victory of our God: Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: Sin and death shall reign no more.

All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: Let this place resound with joy.

All: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy One, you come to us with power beyond all knowing.

**You lift all things out of the dust, you breathe love into every cell,
you call us into communion with you, and you claim victory over death.**

Blessed be your holy name now and forever. Amen.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM *The Lord Is Risen This Morning!* Don Besig ASCAP

The Lord is risen this morning, hal – le – lu - jah, hal – le - lu!
Oh, the Lord is risen this morning, hal – le – lu - jah, hal – le – lu !
Yes, the Lord is risen this morning; there’s a brand new day a-dawning for the
Lord is risen this morning, hal – le – lu !
The Lord is risen this morning, hal – le – lu - jah, hal – le – lu !
Oh, the Lord is risen this morning, hal – le – lu - jah, hal – le – lu !
Yes, the Lord is risen this morning; there’s a brand new day a-dawning for the
Lord is risen this morning, hal – le – lu ! Hal – le – lu - jah,
glory hal – le – lu - jah.
Glory, glory, hal – le - lu. Glory, glory, hal – le - lu.
An angel stood before them and this is what he said: Do not seek the living Lord
here among the dead:
For the Lord is risen this morning, hal - le - lu - jah, hal – le - lu!
Oh, the Lord is risen this morning, hal - le lu - jah, hal - le - lu!
Yes, the Lord is risen this morning; there’s a brand new day a-dawning for the
Lord is risen this morning, hal - le - lu!
Hal - le - lu - jah, glory hal - le - lu – jah. Hal – le - lu - jah,
glory hal – le - lu - jah. Hal – le - lu - jah, glory hal – le - lu – jah.
Christ the Lord is risen, hal – le - lu – jah!
Glory, glory, hal – le – lu. Glory, glory, hal – le – lu.
He died for our salvation, to take our sins away.
Now our Savior lives again on this Easter Day!
Glory hal – le- lu – jah, hal - le lu ! Glory hal - le lu - jah, hal - le lu ! Yes,
the Lord is risen this morning;
there’s a brand new day a-dawning for the Lord is risen this morning,
hal – le – lu ! Hal - le lu - jah, glory hal - le lu – jah. Christ the Lord is
risen. Glory, hal - le lu !

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Open our eyes and soften our hearts,
O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit,
that in the hearing of your Word we may receive new life. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

New Testament

Acts 10: 34 – 43

p. 113 NT

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11

p. 155 NT

Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

SCRIPTURE READINGS *cont*:

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Gospel

Mark 16: 1 – 8

p. 47 NT

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already

been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

“**The Never-Ending Story**”

Rev. Keith Bowie

*HYMN

The Strife Is O'er

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THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Invitation and Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Questions of the Candidate

Congregational Assent: “**We promise our love, support, and care.**”

Prayer of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

Benediction

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Wiltse

Hymn of Promise, words & music Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Co.
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MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

We suggest physical distancing. Thank you for respecting the space of those who choose to mask.

Our purpose,

First Congregational Church, UCC, Ellsworth, Maine:

To embrace the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ

*In meaningful and dynamic ways through
creative worship,*

supportive fellowship,

compassionate outreach, and

stimulating Christian education for all ages;

To be a faithful community which, led by the Holy Spirit,

expresses hospitality,

nurtures spiritual growth, and

promotes a deep sense of belonging;

To strive to build on commonalities while seeking to

understand, accept, and

celebrate our differences;

To stand as a beacon of hope in a hurting and troubled world by

sharing the Good News of the Gospel, and
practicing God's love as embodied by Jesus Christ.

We welcome all to walk with us on the journey of faith.

As adopted by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting – January 22, 2012



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812

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