

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
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 14, 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

*I Will Sing of my Redeemer
My Lord, What a Mornin’*

arr. Page
arr. Wilson

WELCOME

INTROIT (all)

I Come with Joy

617

*I come with joy to meet my Lord, forgiven, loved and
free, in awe and wonder to recall his life, laid down for
me, his life laid down for me.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Sing praises to God, you faithful, give thanks to the Holy One!

All: Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

One: You turn our weeping to dancing, God; you remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

All: May we praise you and not be silent! We will give thanks to you, O God, forever!

*HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

234

*INVOCATION (unison)

Risen Savior, we thank you that in your resurrection we are transformed. We are free from living grave clothes that have bound us - prejudices, fears, angers, self-centeredness, loneliness. We thank you that in your resurrection those dear to us are embraced. We thank you that in your resurrection we ourselves may hope for the end of pain, grief, tears, weakness, and for everlasting life in the beauty of your spirit. Alleluia. Amen.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

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.

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been; Love is come again like wheat a-rising green. In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain, thinking that Jesus would not wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; Love is come again like wheat a-rising green. Chris came forth at Easter, like the risen grain, who that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, the risen Christ is seen; Love is come a-gain like wheat a-rising green. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life a-gain, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; Love is come a-gain like wheat a-rising green.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Lord God, good shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives; in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Acts 3: 12-19

p. 105 NT

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to

you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Gospel

Luke 24 : 36 b – 48

p. 78/79

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

SERMON

“Can I Get A Witness?”

Rev. Bowie

*HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

215

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Erik, Lois, Sue, Betty, Brian & Jane, Peter & Susan

Choral Response

In This Time

303

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES (Mail to PO Box 12, Ellsworth, 04605)

OFFERTORY

Sent Out in Jesus' Name

Traditional Cuban

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

439

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

311

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah! Thine the Glory

arr. Lasky

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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