

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
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 21, 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 Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
Precious Lord*

arr. Englert
arr. Page

WELCOME

INTROIT (all)

This Is the Day

286

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord had made.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Psalm 100

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

All: Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

One: Know that the LORD is God, it is he who made us, and we are his;

All: We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

All: Give thanks to him; bless his name.

One: For the LORD is good;

All: His steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

218

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

We give thanks to you and bless your name, O LORD, for through the death and resurrection of Jesus we are indeed your people and the sheep of your pasture. Please renew in us, today and every day the joy of walking in your footsteps. In the name of Jesus we pray, 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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Shepherd Psalm

Hope Publishing

The Lord is my shepherd, There's nothing more I'll ever need; I'll lie down to dream in a pasture of green, I'll follow where-ever he leads me. The Lord is my shepherd, Beside the still waters I go; My soul is restored when I walk with my Lord, His righteousness 'round me will flow. And if I should walk in the shadow of death, I will not be afraid; My shepherd, the Lord, goes where-ever I go, His rod and his staff are my comfort. I know that the Lord is my shepherd, I'll sit at his table to dine; His goodness and mercy will follow my days, And heaven will surely be mine, And Heaven will always be mine.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

O God, please open your Word to us this day, and open us to your Word. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

New Testament

1 John 3:16 – 24

p. 213 NT

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Psalm 23

Response 2 #734

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

For you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

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Gospel

John 10: 11 – 18

p. 90 NT

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the

sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

SERMON *In the Footsteps of the Good Shepherd* David Henry

*HYMN *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #558

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: *Dan, and Julie*

Choral Response *Amen* # 316

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

OFFERTORY *Bind Us Together* Gilman

*DOXOLOGY # 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright* # 229

BENEDICTION from Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip us with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE *Benediction* Harry Simeone

POSTLUDE *Sing and Rejoice* Smith

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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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