



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812

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Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 25, 2022

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

*Delight in the Lord
They'll Know We Are Christians*

Logan
arr. Leatherman

WELCOME

INTROIT (all) *Surely the presence of the Lord*

263

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings,

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: May God's peace rest on our busy lives so that we are quieted into prayer.

All: May God's love flow through our worship words so that we are awake to opportunities for service.

One: May God's grace embrace every need and may the restless Gospel set our hearts afire.

All: Amen and amen.

*HYMN

Christians, we have met to worship

277

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Loving God, giver of all good gifts, you have created us for life together, and in Christ you have revealed to us that the true riches of faith are good works, generosity, and a desire to serve. Strengthen us this day to pursue all righteousness, godliness, and love with perseverance and gentleness, that we may embrace and live the abundant life of faith, and dwell with you eternally. 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 *Come, O Lord, and Overflow Us*

Hayford

Come, O Lord, and overflow us with your love.

Come, O Lord, and overflow us with your love;

For we bring our hearts like vessels to the ever-flowing stream.

Come, O Lord, and overflow us with your love.

Come, Lord Jesus, and anoint us with your power;

Come, Lord Jesus, and anoint us with your power,

For we bring our hearts like vessels to the ever-flowing stream.

Come, Lord Jesus, and anoint us; come, O Lord, and overflow us;

Come, O Lord, and overflow us with your love, your love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Nurturing God, you give life to all things and long to satisfy the needs of your children in their desire for healing and wholeness. Send your Spirit upon us this day, that as we hear your word we may meet Jesus, the one to whom all our hungers are fed. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle

1 Timothy 6:6-19

p.186 NT

Gospel

Luke 16:19-31

p.69 NT

SERMON

Rev. Keith Bowie

***UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH (unison)**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Eleanor, Tiffany, Genevieve, Martha, Ruth

Choral Response *In this time*

Sivis

In this time of quiet reverence, God,
fill us now with everlasting peace,
and may each and every day we live
bring true faith in your abiding love.

*HYMN *Sister, let me be your servant* 490

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

OFFERTORY *You Are My All in All* Jernigan

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *God, dismiss us with your blessing* 439

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE (all) *Go, my children, with my blessing (v 3 only)* 431

POSTLUDE *A Festal Postlude* Barr

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Come, O Lord, words & music Jack Hayford © 1982 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)
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In this time, words & music Larry Sivis 1985
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Anne Bancroft, *Liturgist*
Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*
Cindy & Charlie Sargent, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Anne Bancroft, *September Deacon*

MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING. We suggest physical distancing. Please respect the space of those who choose to mask. We will determine on a week-to-week basis if we have coffee hour after worship.



THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 75 MEALS ON SEPTEMBER 21
Serving Wednesdays 2:30-4 p.m., take-out only

The WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, serves take-out only.
Please call the church on Wednesdays **by 2 p.m.**, 667-8321,
to reserve a meal. Donations always gratefully received.



Behold!

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you...

James 5:4

Mini Scripture study (C):

Ephesians 6:12 (NRSV) and/or James 5:4 (NRSV)

Start by reading above passage(s), before you begin with study questions.

Take a moment to pray the “Prayer of Illumination” * – (repeat 3X)

Discussion questions:

- How does the wage gap impact us today? Racial wealth gap? Digital divide?
- How are families doing in rural, urban, and even the global economies?
- How are workers and other groups joining together to affect change and establish worker justice?

Additional material to better integrate this lesson.

a. Wage Theft/fraud – Unfortunately it is quite common for employers to steal wages from workers, that is to fail to pay employees all they earn. Up to two-thirds of workers in low-wage industries are victims of wage theft each week. Failure to pay for all hours worked or for overtime are just some examples of the ways employers steal wages. View and discuss the Warrior Met Coal Miners Strike

b. Work to end wage theft in your community. Learn more. Low-wage workers are high-value people, created in the image of God. All jobs must provide fair wages, benefits, and working conditions. Workers must be able to support themselves and their families and live with dignity the life of wholeness that God intends for all. God’s reign does not stop at the door to the workplace but extends to all aspects of life including our work lives. View and discuss Virtual Pray In to Protect Consumers

Action Item:

- What is God calling you and your faith community to do?
- What are your goals and timeline for completion?

Further Reading/Discussion:

- Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- Union efforts for Starbucks Workers

*Prayer of Illumination

Creator God,
We welcome you in this space
May your liberating spirit
Saturate and transform this physical/virtual space and enliven our Covenant
Open our hearts and minds to receive, reflect, and redress
Engage our senses
Engage our bodies
Engage our souls
We are yours.
Transform us together now and always
In community we prayer,
Amen.

With your generous support, The United Church of Christ, through the Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering, helps its members live out their beliefs via acts of service.

Please donate today!

For more resources and to share and learn best practices for economic justice/change, join the UCC Economic Justice Champions, [here](#).

Two-thirds of your donations to NIN support advocacy, programming, and grants. One-third of your generous gifts directly support CAIM.

www.ucc.org/nin. Thank You!



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