

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
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 28, 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

*Little Prelude in g minor
Fairest Lord Jesus*

arr. Taylor
arr. Page #97

WELCOME

INTROIT (all)

The Lord Is In This Holy Temple

Lindsey Merrill, 1971

The Lord is in his holy temple,
Let all the earth keep silence before him.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

One: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

One: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

All: Come, and let us praise the vine that gives all goodness.

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

2

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Your mercy is new every morning, O God; your faithfulness is as boundless as the heavens. We gather to worship you, thankful for all your gifts. We thank you for your love and your grace so abundant, so overflowing, that you receive us in spite of our timid lives of faith. As you encouraged the first Christians to witness in the face of all risks, encourage us to follow your call. Grant us peace in the midst of challenge, teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune those things that do not nourish, and fill us with your Holy Spirit, through the risen Christ. 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 *In This Place At This Time*

Lee Dengler (ASCAP)

In this place, at this time, brought together by love divine. God alone can satisfy all the longing deep inside. In this place, at this time, love and grace are what we find. Side by side, young and old, brother, sister are in God's fold. Poor and weak are welcome here. Those oppressed need never fear. In this place, at this time, love and grace are what we find. Gathered community, seeking God's face. Blessed the fellowship joined here by grace. Not one soul left behind. Christ invites all of humankind. All our lives are intertwined and are part of God's design. In this place, at this time, love and grace are what we find. In this place, at this time, all are welcome to come and find, in the presence of the Lord, needy souls will be restored. In this place, at this time, love and grace are what we find.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

New Testament

First Reading Acts 8: 26 - 40

p. 110 NT

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples

SERMON *“Commissioned To Share With The Whole World”* Rev. Bowie

*HYMN

To God Be the Glory

#72

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Bailey, Michelle, Jon, Mary and - Peter & Cathi

Choral Response: *Prayer Responses*

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace.

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

OFFERTORY *Taste and See* Moore

*DOXOLOGY # 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *Because He Lives* # 562

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life* #432

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, be with us now, we pray; direct our steps as we go forth to do your will this day.

O faithful Guide, renew our trust in love that does not fail; and give us strength to work and pray, that peace may soon prevail.

POSTLUDE *Praise Him With Trumpets!* Blake

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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