



**First Congregational Church UCC** - Founded 1812  
PO Box 12, 2 Church Street  
Ellsworth, Maine 04605  
207-667-8321 office@ellsworthucc.org  
ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

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

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**September 29, 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

*God's Steadfast Love  
Here I Am, Lord*

Parker  
arr. Carter

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT      *Come before his presence*      unknown  
Come before his presence with thanksgiving.  
Let us praise him with a joyful song.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: O God, lift the light of your countenance upon us.

**All: O God, be gracious to us and hear our prayers.**

One: You have put more joy in our hearts than have those whose grain and wine abound.

**All: In peace did we lie down to sleep, for you alone, O God, let us dwell in safety. Now in joy do we rise up and worship you.**

\*HYMN      *God of grace and God of glory*      464

\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**O God, this is a month of changes. We can feel it in the cooler air, the drop in humidity, the gray skies. Creative God, every year the world spins through its seasons and every year brings new trouble. Steady and soothe your earth that its changes may be good changes and its struggles end in peace. Loving God, who without change remains our steadfast friend, watch over the changes in our lives. May we stretch and grow but always and ever remain yours, in Christ. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR 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

*A Loving Heart*

Bushong

A loving heart is kind and patient. It will not boast or envy be.  
It will bear all things without complaint,  
For it endures , hopes and believes.  
Though I may speak with the sound of angels,  
and if I give all that I possess, without love I am as a sounding gong.  
I have no gain but the gift of love.  
Love never ends, love is forever. Though mortal flesh may soon be gone,  
And the stars fall from the heavens, love never ends; it will live on.  
To live in faith is to live in God's pure light,  
and all who hope will not be denied.  
But to love is to touch the face of God and taste of heaven here in this life.  
Faith and hope and love abide, these three,  
and still the best of all is a loving heart.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Loving God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your Word. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle	James 5:13-20	pew Bible p.204 NT
Gospel	Mark 9:38-50	pew Bible p.39 NT

## SERMON

**Don't Go to Hell**

Rev. Bowie

## \*HYMN

*I love your church, O God*

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## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries: Ruth, Kassidy,  
Karen, Jane, Donna, Deborah, John & Donna, Ken & Sue

Choral Response *Let the words of my mouth*

Wiersbe

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Dawn* Light

\*DOXOLOGY 46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Your gift of life, O God, is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey to our lips. Take these gifts of our lives: refine and purify them, and let them be for the world a sign of your goodness and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *God be with you* Wood

God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.  
By his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again, God be in you, go in peace.

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Recessional* Callender

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*Come before his presence*, text Psalm 95:2 | Public Domain

*A Loving Heart*, words & music Timothy Bushong © 2009 GlorySound, a Division of Shawnee Press  
CCLI # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

*God be with you*, words Jeremiah Eames Rankin 1880 | Public Domain  
Music Dale Wood © 1973 Sacred Music Press | CCLI # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*  
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*  
Mary Morrow, *Liturgist*  
Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*  
Cindy & Charlie Sargent, *Ushers*  
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*  
Anne Bancroft, *September Deacon*  
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*



**MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.**  
We suggest physical distancing. Thank you for respecting the space of those who choose to mask.

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**PUBLIC PRAYER VIGIL IN OUR SANCTUARY  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 5-7 P.M.**

All are welcome to attend as we offer prayers for peace in the Middle East.

**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 90 MEALS ON SEPTEMBER 25.  
Serving Wednesdays 2:30 - 4 p.m., take-out only**

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

*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*