



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812
PO Box 12, 2 Church Street
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
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ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

January 12, 2025

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

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Down to the River to Pray*

arr. Kim
arr. Wagner

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *We Have Come Into His House* Ballinger
We have come into his house and gathered in his name to worship him,
Christ the Lord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

All: Darkness has been banished!

One: God's light of hope floods the earth.

All: God's light comes to us all.

One: Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light.

All: Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.

One: Let us worship God in holy splendor.

*HYMN *As with gladness* 173

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

God of this new day, we greet you with joy. We thank you for your Spirit which has called us to faith and gathered us together as your family. Enable us to sense your presence and to hear your voice in this time of worship, that your love and truth might recreate us yet again, and fit us for useful and loving service in this world. In gratitude and trust we pray. 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 *Fill Us With Your Love* arr. Young
*Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.*

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. *Jesu, Jesu...*

Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near us and far away. *Jesu, Jesu...*

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,
All these are neighbors to us and you. *Jesu, Jesu...*

Loving puts us on our knees, silently washing their feet,
This is the way we should live with you. *Jesu, Jesu...*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**Gracious God, by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in the word
read and proclaimed, make the words of our mouths and the
meditations of our hearts acceptable to you, our Rock and Redeemer.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Psalm 29	pew Bible p.467 OT
Gospel	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	pew Bible p.52 NT

SERMON **Spiritual Revolution** Rev. Bowie

*HYMN *O love that wilt not let me go* 540

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Bob

Choral Response *Hear our prayer, O Lord* Whelpton

Hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us and grant us your peace.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry* Ylvisaker

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God, we offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child, whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

*HYMN *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* 589

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *May the Spirit* Peterson
May the spirit of the Lord go before you and give you peace.

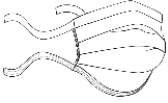
POSTLUDE *Gigue* arr. Wagner

We Have Come Into His House, words & music Bruce Ballinger © 1976 Sound III Inc
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Fill Us With Your Love, text Tom Colvin © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*
Cathy Engel, *Liturgist*
Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*

Cindy & Charlie Sargent, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Anne Bancroft, *January Deacon*



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

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 115 MEALS ON JANUARY 8.
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.

Worship is broadcast live through WDEA AM 1370.

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