

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 AFTER EPIPHANY & HOLY COMMUNION

February 2, 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

*Let Us Break Bread Together
Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

arr. Hayes
anon.

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

I come with joy

Wren

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread.

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)**

One: Let us rejoice! A new day has dawned, and we have gathered together
to celebrate God's presence with us and God's great love for us.

All: **We know the beauty of God's creation and the wonder of the
human family.**

One: With gratitude and humility we will praise God's greatness and
goodness.

All: **We gather to worship God whose forgiveness embraces us, whose
might empowers us, and whose faithfulness enables us to live in
hope. Praise be to God.**

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

We thank you, O God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have gathered, God of grace and wisdom, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ, you have touched us with your Spirit; and we have turned toward you, seeking to love as we have been loved. We call upon your holy name that you will empower us to worship and serve you, walking gently on this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 Remembrance

Red

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.

In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.

In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in.

Take, eat, and be comforted, drink, and remember, too,

That this is my body and precious blood, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.

In remembrance of me always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above, look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Just as we see your wisdom and glory in nature around us, God, may we hear your Word for us in the words of these readings, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may be drawn closer to you. Through your great preacher, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Psalm 19:7-14

pew Bible p.462 OT

Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

pew Bible p.53 NT

SERMON

A Sermon for the Ages

Rev. Bowie

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Julie, Cathy, Aaron

Choral Response

Dresden Amen

Neumann

*HYMN

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn

If I have two coats

Gillette

If I have two coats, God calls me to share;
There's someone nearby with no coat to wear.
And if I don't know who that person might be,
It's to a new friendship that God's calling me.

If I have some bread — and soup, all the more —
I'm called to reach out to someone who's poor.
And if I don't know who that person might be,
It's to a new table that God's calling me.

(hymn text continued next page→)

If money is mine, God calls me to live
As someone who loves to generously give;
And if I don't know someone suffering near me,
It's to a new neighbor that God's calling me.

O God of great truth, John's call to obey
Prepared us for Christ, who shows us your Way.
May we have the courage to try something new,
To reach to new neighbors and so welcome you.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution & Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, and our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Healing Spirit

Hopson

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God of life and new life, we offer our gifts with grateful hearts. Bless them and our lives to your service, that they may reveal your glory, nurture faith, and manifest the common good. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Pass It On

477

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

I come with joy

Wren

Together met, together bound, we'll go our different ways,
And as his people in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

Young

I come with joy, words Brian Wren 1968, music The Southern Harmony 1835
CCLI license # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

If I have two coats, tune LYONS Joseph Martin Kraus 1784;
until recently attributed to Johann Michael Haydn | PUBLIC DOMAIN
Text ref. Luke 3:7-18 © 2015 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. | Used with permission

In Remembrance, text Ragan Courtney, music Buryl Red © 2000 Van Ness Inc.
CCLI license # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

Lynn Hall, *Organist & Flautist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*
Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*
Rev. W. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*
Cindy Sargent & Rev. John A. Lacey, *Communion Stewards*
Cindy & Charlie Sargent, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Rev. John A. Lacey, *February Deacon*



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

**Worship is broadcast live through
WDEA AM 1370, Facebook, and Zoom.**

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 115 MEALS ON JANUARY 29.
Serving Wednesdays 2 – 3:30 p.m., take-out only

WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, serves take-out only.
Please call the church on Wednesdays **before 11 a.m.**, 667-8321,
to reserve a meal. Donations always gratefully received.

NOTE TIME CHANGES

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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