



**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  
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
MESOM SUNDAY**



**February 23, 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

*Little Toccata  
Amazing Grace*

Curtis  
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Come, celebrate the call of God* Hopson

Come, celebrate the call of God that awakens and renews,  
And chooses from us, for our good, the bringers of good news.  
The Spirit's blessing all ordains to show what God has done,  
Yet brings to focus and contains the many in the one.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) from Jeremiah 17:7-8

One: Let us praise God, who gives living water, through which the faithful flourish.

**All: Like trees planted by the water, God, are those who trust in you.**

One: Like trees with deep roots are those who place their faith in you.

**All: Like green trees in winter are those who receive their life from you.**

One: We praise you, God, for life that has no end, through Jesus our risen Christ.

\*HYMN *A mighty fortress is our God* (vs 1, 2, 4) 65

\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

**Hope of the poor, friend of the persecuted, advocate of the suffering, O God, we praise you, for you have been our help. Turn our tears to laughter, and give us what we need to live. Then keep us faithful, that we may never be satisfied until all have what they need. May all people receive your blessing, through Jesus Christ who died, and rose again, and in whom we find life. 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     *I Rest My Soul in His Love*     Poorman

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (all)

**Gracious God, by your Word you provide all we need—for salvation, for wholeness, for abundant life. Now draw us close in your Spirit so that we may discover your will and live according to your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Genesis 45:3-11	pew Bible p.39 OT
Gospel	Luke 6:27-38	pew Bible p.56 NT

SERMON                    **Getting Down to the Nitty Gritty**                    Rev. Bowie

\*HYMN                                    *In the bulb there is a flower*                                    638

MESOM PRESENTATION (Maine School of Ministry)     Rev. John Lacey

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Kathy, Megan Peter Gil

Choral Response                    *Dresden Amen*                                    Naumann



## **MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.**

We suggest physical distancing. Thank you for respecting the space of those who choose to mask.



If you would like more information about **MESOM (the Maine School of Ministry)**, please speak with John Lacey, or go to <https://www.maineucc.org/mesom/>

**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 115 MEALS ON FEBRUARY 19.**  
**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**

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

*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*