



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.*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT & HOLY COMMUNION**

April 6, 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

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

arr. Putnam

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross/There is a Redeemer

arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL ANTHEM *Come, thou fount of every blessing* arr. Thygerson
Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love!
Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good measure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (all)

Break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit, O God Let your Word, read and proclaimed, pour out until its fragrance fills this house and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Psalm 121

pew Bible p.534 OT

Gospel

John 12:1-8

pew Bible p.92 NT

SERMON

Help Along Life's Way

Rev. Bowie

*THE NICENE CREED (unison)

hymnal 358

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Olivia, Greg & Jenn

Choral Response

Dresden Amen

Naumann

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn *Let us break bread together* 425

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)

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Give Me Jesus

arr. Lau

*DOXOLOGY

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Abundant God, your generosity astounds and humbles us. We bow before you in gratitude and awe, asking you to receive what we have brought in response. May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering, for the sake of the world you came to save. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

*HYMN

Beneath the cross of Jesus

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BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Together met

Gläser

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

POSTLUDE

Praise Him with the Sound of the Trumpet

Lau

In honor of the 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed, it seems fitting to say the Nicene Creed together in worship today. The Nicene Creed has guided countless Christians across the centuries. It was formulated in 325 AD at the Council of Nicaea. Author Willa Cather (1873-1947) said, "I think the Nicene Creed the most beautiful prose in the world."

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

Here at thy table, text May P. Hoyt (19th c), tune BREAD OF LIFE William F. Sherwin 1877 | Public Domain

Call to Worship from *Sounds of the Eternal: A Celtic Psalter*, J. Philip Newell

Come thou fount, text Robert Robinson | Public Domain
tune NETTLETON John Wyeth 1813, arr. Robert W. Thygerson © 1999 Lorenz Corp.
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming 20543232

Together met, text Unknown, tune AZMON Carl Gläser 1828, arr. Lowell Mason 1839 | Public Domain

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*

Martin Vachon, *Liturgist*

Rev. Keith Bowie, *Transitional Minister*

Cindy Sargent & Rev. John A. Lacey, *Communion Stewards*

Catherine Engel & Anne Bancroft, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

Katharine Schrader, *April Deacon*

MASKING IS OPTIONAL IN THE CHURCH BUILDING.

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



**COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT & PARTY
SATURDAY, APRIL 12 AT 10 A.M.**

Please join us here at FCC for a community event for all elementary children. This is a family activity. It will be outside if possible and inside if there is inclement weather.

Holy Week Services 2025 at First Congregational Church



PALM SUNDAY, April 13, 10 a.m. – Palm Sunday is considered the Gateway to Holy Week. As we remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we will bless and distribute palm leaves to everyone. We will sing our hosannas and wave palms in praise of the One who came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17, 7 p.m. – Every first Sunday of the month when we celebrate Holy Communion, we remember this night—the night that Jesus shared his last supper with his closest friends. Following the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, we will close with a Tenebrae Service consisting of hymns and scripture readings pertaining to the last hours of Jesus’ earthly life. Friends from the Ellsworth Falls UCC will share this service with us here at FCC.



EASTER SUNRISE, April 20, 7 a.m. – We will join the Community Easter Sunrise Service at Harbor Park off Water Street.



RESURRECTION WORSHIP, April 20, 10 a.m. – Join us as we continue our celebration of the Easter good news! The choir is preparing special music, we’ll sing Easter hymns, and the sanctuary will be decorated with lilies and tulips. Rejoice with us and be glad!

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 115 MEALS ON APRIL 2.

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.

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