



**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**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER & CREATION CARE SUNDAY**

**April 27, 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

*That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*  
*Blessed Assurance*

arr. Hopson  
arr. Lau

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Akers

You may follow the text on page 261 in the hymnal.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. We are sustained and nourished by  
God's presence and love.

**All: All Thanks be to God.**

One: As we mourn the distress and wounds of God's creation,

**All: God weeps with us.**

One: As we face rising waters, hunger and displacement,

**All: God suffers with us.**

One: As we struggle for justice,

**All: God struggles with us.**

One: As we expose and challenge climate justice,

**All: God empowers us.**

One: As we strive to build alternative communities,

**All: God works with us.**

One: As we offer our gifts to all,

**All: God blesses us.**

One: Sisters and brothers, rejoice,

**All: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.**

\*HYMN

*Morning has broken*

53

**\*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)**

**Loving Jesus, in a broken and fearful world, you continue to reveal yourself to us each day, bringing your peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We seek to live a life worthy of these gifts, knowing that we can never repay you. You have been our steadfast companion. Guide us still, that we might follow you before any human authority and know the saving power of your love. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME FOR ALL AGES

Creation Care Sunday

\*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     *For Where Love Is, There is God*     Wagner

Come as strangers to the altar, for where love is, there is God.  
Come you poor, you weak, who falter, for where love is, there is God.  
Song and scripture wed together, bound by faith in sacred Word,  
Sharing peace and consolation, for where love is, there is God.  
Let us each love one another, for where love is, there is God,  
And embrace as sister, brother, for where love is, there is God.  
Heal our hurting, lift our spirits, cease our cold, contentious ways.  
Spread the grace of love unending, for where love is, there is God.  
Alleluia! Praise the Lord. For where love is, there is God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (all)

**Gracious God, Living Word, as you revealed yourself to Mary that Easter morning, so reveal yourself to us. By the power of your Spirit, give each of us faith, that hearing your Word we, too, may proclaim, "I have seen the Lord!" Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Psalm 118:14-29	pew Bible p.528 OT
Gospel	Acts 5:27-32	pew Bible p.107 NT

SERMON     **The Stone, the Salvation, and the Soil**     Andy Elliott

\*HYMN     *This is my Father's world*     59

## MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Bailey, Michelle, Jon, Mary, Peter & Cathi

Choral Response

*Amen*

Danish

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

*Grant Us Thy Peace*

arr. Scott

\*DOXOLOGY

46

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God of beauty and truth, everything in your creation is connected, for all share a common origin in your creating hand. We praise you for the splendor of the mountains, the tranquility of the rivers, the vibrant colors of the forests, and the majesty of the oceans. We thank you for the bounty of the earth, the breath of life, and the gift of our very existence. Fill us with a spirit of gratitude, wisdom, and courage, that we might care for creation and not misuse it. Help us to remember our interdependence with all living things and to cherish the beauty of the world. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*In the Garden*

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## BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Lutkin

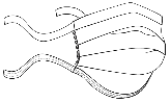
You may follow the text on page 446 in the hymnal.

POSTLUDE

*Hallelujah! Thine the Glory*

arr. Lasky

Lynn Hall, *Organist*  
Nancy Sargent, *Choir Director*  
Rev. John A. Lacey, *Liturgist*  
Andy Elliott, *Guest Preacher*  
Sue & Mike Fuller, *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.

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

**THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 120 MEALS ON APRIL 23.**

**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*