



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812

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Ellsworth, Maine 04605

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

*Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available—
please ask an usher if you require them.*

**Please stand as you are able.*

Thank you for silencing electronic devices before worship begins.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROMISED GIVING SUNDAY**

November 23, 2025

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
We Gather Together
Ash Grove/Thanks Be to Thee*

arr. Lasky
arr. Lasky
arr. Page

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *The sun is on the sea and shore*

Bain

You may follow the text in the hymnal, #3.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, people of God, gather in the promise of a faithful Shepherd, the One who gathers what has been scattered and heals what has been harmed.

All: We come seeking the One who leads with justice, who restores, who renews, who makes us whole.

One: Blessed be the Lord our God, who has remembered the covenant of mercy and raised up a light to guide our feet into peace.

All: In the dawn that breaks upon us, we lift our voices in gratitude and hope. Let us worship the God who brings righteousness, who frees us from fear, and who calls us into a new way of living. Let us worship with joy, expectation, and trust.

*HYMN

There's a wideness in God's mercy

73

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Holy and Faithful God, we gather this morning trusting in Your promise and Your presence. Where the world has known failed shepherds and broken systems, You come as our true Guide, bringing justice, mercy, and a light that cannot be overcome. Quiet our anxious hearts. Open us to the dawn You are breaking among us. Let Your tender compassion meet us here, drawing together all who have been scattered, restoring all who feel weary or worn.

As we worship, breathe Your peace into our spirits. Lead us in paths of righteousness and hope. Form us into people who reflect Your love and walk in the way of Your peace. Amen.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Following the Light

***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 *Dream God's Dream*

Sirchio

You may follow the text on page 6 of this bulletin.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, as we prepare to hear Your word, we pause with grateful hearts. Thank You for the shepherding love that gathers us in, for the mercies that meet us each morning, and for the light that breaks into our lives even when the world feels dim.

Open our ears to hear Your promise of justice and peace. Open our minds to understand Your wisdom. Open our hearts to receive Your compassion, a compassion that leads us toward gratitude and into a deeper love for one another.

May Your Spirit move among us now, guiding us like the rising dawn as we listen for Your truth. Let the words of Scripture stir hope within us and inspire us to live with thanksgiving, with courage, and with grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament
Gospel

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79

pew Bible p.684 OT
pew Bible p.50 NT

SERMON

Mercy at Daybreak
The Shepherd, the dawn, and us!

DEDICATION OF PROMISED GIVING CARDS

*Hymn *Called as partners in Christ's service*, v1 453

Presentation of Promised Giving Cards

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Gracious and faithful God, we thank you for sustaining our church through seasons of challenge and growth, and for filling us with faith, hope, and the courage to look toward the future. You have shaped us into a community where welcome is shared, compassion is practiced, and your Spirit continues to move among us.

On this Stewardship Sunday, we bring our gifts and our pledge cards as signs of our commitment to your work. Bless what we offer today—may these gifts become seeds of healing, renewal, and possibility. Strengthen the ministries that gather people, serve our neighbors, and build connections across every table and every generation.

God, your dream for us is larger than what we can see. As we dedicate these commitments, widen our generosity, deepen our trust, and open our hearts to the future you are preparing. Make us a people who give joyfully, serve faithfully, and live with hope.

Bless these cards.

Bless these gifts.

Bless this community as we step forward together. Amen.

*HYMN *Called as partners in Christ's service*, vs 2,3,4 453

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Pat, Steve

Choral Response *Lead me, Lord* Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,

Make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord,

Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY	<i>Our God Reigns</i>	Smith
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*DOXOLOGY		46
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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN	<i>Savior, like a shepherd lead us</i>	558
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BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Dresden Amen</i>	Naumann
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POSTLUDE	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	arr. Larson
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Lead me, Lord, text from Psalms 5:8 & 4:8, music Samuel S. Wesley, 1861 | Public Domain

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Andy Elliott, *Pastor*

Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*

Sue & Ken Farkas, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*

Cindy Sargent, *November Deacon*

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

VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

Come with hope or despair, expectation or disappointment, and seek God even as God seeks you. We pray that your experience of worship enriches and sustains you in the week ahead. If you are visiting, we hope you will introduce yourself to those around you and to the Pastor. Please join us for coffee after the service. If you have any questions, please ask an usher.

Choral Anthem

Dream God's dream

Sirchio

*Dream God's dream! Holy Spirit help us dream of a world where
There is justice and where everyone is free to build and grow and love,
And to simply have enough. The world will change when
We dream God's dream.*

I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's skin
Will mean less than what's within the person's heart.
A world where water's clean and where air is safe to breathe.
And every child born has enough to eat. *Dream God's dream...*

I'm dreaming of the call God is offering to me, how to use my energy
and my best gifts; to do the work of Christ to say God, please use my life
to spread Your healing love and to live Your truth. *Dream God's dream...*

I'm dreaming of the way that I want my life to go.
I've got hope and I've got goals that I'd like to meet.
I'm reaching for the stars, but I won't forget the scars of Christ
Who died to show that the dream's for all. *Dream God's dream...*

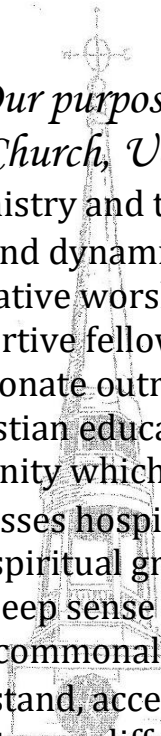
Music & lyrics Bryan Sirchio © 1991 Crosswind Music
Sirchio gave permission to use the song in conjunction with the 2025 UCC Stewardship theme materials.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 96 MEALS ON NOVEMBER 19.

There will NOT be a Welcome Table meal on November 26.

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