First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
PO Box 12, 2 Church Street
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
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ellsworthucc.org facebook.com/fccellsworth

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
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026 **10 a.m.**

RINGING THE BELL 9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty/O Worship the King* arr. Kim
An Appalachian Air Martin

WELCOME

INTROIT (all) *Here we gather as God's people* 294

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come into this space from a world of constant reaction—

All: **Where we wake up and the world is already arguing.**

One: But here, we listen for the voice that called us before we were born. *(Isaiah 49)*

All: **We belong to God, and God has not forgotten us.**

One: Here, we turn our eyes toward Jesus—

All: **The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.** ***(John 1)***

One: Christ still asks, "What are you looking for?"

All: **And we come with honest hearts.**

One: Christ still invites, "Come and see."

All: **So we worship with open hands, open hearts, and new beginnings. Let us worship God.**

*HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* 452

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, we come to You weary from the desert of constant reaction, a world that is loud, divided, and always demanding more. Quiet our hearts so we can hear Your voice again, the One who called us by name and has not forgotten us. Turn our eyes to Jesus, the Lamb of God, and help us respond to His invitation: "Come and see." Gather us, renew us, and make us a light in this world. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The pause button

*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.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Hallelujah, We Shall Rise* arr. Choplin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy God, as we hear Your Word today, quiet the noise within us and around us. In a world of constant reaction, give us the grace to listen deeply. Open our minds to understand, soften our hearts to receive, and strengthen our wills to respond. May Your Spirit shine light on these scriptures, so we may see Jesus clearly, and follow where He leads. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Isaiah 49:1-7	pew Bible p.638 OT
Gospel	John 1:29-42	pew Bible p.80 NT

SERMON **The Desert of Constant Reaction**

You wake up and the world is already arguing.

*HYMN *I have decided to follow Jesus* 344

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Barb, Sue, Michael & Lynn

Response (all) *Hear our prayer, O Lord* Whelpton

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *I Was There to Hear your Borning Cry* Ylvisaker

*DOXOLOGY

46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *They'll Know We Are Christians* 494

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE (all) *Peace be upon you* 441

Pease be upon you and guard you forever.
Go in the knowledge that God is with you.

POSTLUDE *The Festive Trumpet* Glyncannon

Hear our prayer, words Psalm 143:1, music George Whelpton 1897 | Public Domain

Peace be upon you, words & music Daniel S. Wilshire © 1995 Chalice Press
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Myrna Vallette, *Liturgist*
Mark & Jessica Remick, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Steve Merchant, *January Deacon*

Thank you for sitting in the front half of the sanctuary today.

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

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 125 MEALS ON JANUARY 14.

WELCOME TABLE, our free community meal, serves take-out only on Wednesdays from 2-3:30 p.m. Please call the church on Wednesdays **before 11 a.m.**, 667-8321, to reserve a meal.
Donations always gratefully received.
(When Ellsworth public schools are closed for inclement weather, there is no Welcome Table that day.)

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