

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine



Founded in 1812

*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
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

January 25, 2026

10 a.m.

RINGING THE BELL

9:45 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*Gigue
Amazing Grace*

arr. Wagner
arr. Page

WELCOME

INTROIT (all) *Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place*

263

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel his mighty power and his grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, all who are weary from the noise of the world.

All: We come to be gathered in God's peace.

One: Come, all who feel scattered by constant reaction.

All: We come to be rooted in Christ.

One: God has plans for us—plans for hope and a future.

All: We seek the Lord with our whole hearts.

One: Before the world grabs us, let God gather us.

All: Let us worship God. Amen.

*HYMN

Come, thou fount of every blessing

16

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

God of hope, we come into this space carrying the noise of the week—pulled into constant reaction, and tired in our spirits. Gather us now. Quiet what is restless within us and center us in Your presence. Bring us to the table of sacred attention, where we remember who we are and whose we are. Shape us into a people formed not by the chaos of the world, but by Your peace, Your promise, and Your future. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

What Are We Paying Attention To?

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 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* arr. Barnard

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled
As to console, to be understood as to understand,
To be loved, as to love with all my soul.
Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
In giving of ourselves that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to life.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy Spirit, quiet the noise within us and around us. Open our hearts to Your living Word, and turn our attention toward what is true and lasting. As we hear the Scriptures read, gather us, shape us, and form us into the people You are calling us to be—a people of hope, community, and faithful devotion. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	Jeremiah 29:11-14	pew Bible p.690 OT
New Testament	Acts 2:42-47	pew Bible p.104 NT

SERMON

The Table of Sacred Attention
We gather before the world grabs us.

*HYMN

Take my life and let it be consecrated

609

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Gary

Choral Response *Lord, listen to your children* 305

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord send your spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Amazing Love* Kendrick

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Fill the World with Love* Edwards
You may follow the text on p.467 in the hymnal, verse 4.

POSTLUDE *Toccata* Wagner

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

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Lynn Hall, *Organist*
Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*
Andy Elliott, *Pastor*
Michael Hall, *Liturgist*
Sue & Ken Farkas, *Ushers*
Lois Stevens, *Greeter*
Ruth & Troy Tainter, *Facebook, WDEA & Zoom*
Steve Merchant, *January Deacon*

VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

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.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 125 MEALS ON JANUARY 21.

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



First Congregational Church UCC - Founded 1812

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