

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine

THIRD SUNDAY IN
LENT



*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 IN LENT**

March 8, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*I Love to Tell the Story
There is a Balm in Gilead*

Fischer
arr. Lau

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Here, O Lord, your servants gather*

Koizumi

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
Looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, all who are thirsty. Come, all who are weary from the journey.

All: We come seeking living water. We come longing to be renewed.

One: Jesus meets us at the well—crossing every barrier, breaking every boundary, speaking truth with grace.

All: He knows our story, and still, He calls us closer.

One: The hour is coming and it is now here. When true worshipers will worship in spirit and in truth.

All: We open our hearts to worship in spirit and truth.

One: Leave behind your water jars of fear and shame. Lift up your voices and your lives.

All: For the One who meets us here is the Savior of the world. Let us worship the living Christ!

*HYMN

Gather Us In

284

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious God, You meet us in the ordinary moments of life, knowing our whole story and loving us still. Quench our thirst with Your living water. Break down the barriers within us and teach us to worship in spirit and in truth. Transform us by Your grace, so we may leave this place renewed and ready to share Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Kara Ibarguen & Brendan Minear

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 *We Shall Walk Through the Valley*

Dengler

In the valley, there is sorrow. In the valley there is woe.
In the valley, there are trials to be carried as we go.
In the valley, there is danger, but take heart and walk in peace,
For the one who overcomes is in the valley, and he leads.
In the valley, there is sickness. In the valley, there is pain.
In the valley, death befriends us. If we flee, we flee in vain.
In the valley, there is suffering, but take heart and walk in peace,
For the One who overcomes is in the valley, and He leads.
We shall walk through the valley in peace. For if Jesus himself
Shall be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace.
There is sorrow in the valley, but take heart and walk in peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Living God, As Your Word is read and proclaimed, open our hearts as You opened the heart of the woman at the well. Shine Your light into the hidden places within us. Quench our thirst with truth that transforms and grace that restores. By Your Spirit, help us to hear not just with our ears, but with willing and expectant hearts, that we may encounter Christ anew and be changed by His living water. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel

John 4:5-42

pew Bible p.82 NT



SERMON **Come & See, Your Story Isn't Over!**

*HYMN *Jesus walked this lonesome valley* 211

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Stephen, Meghan, Jerri, Susan, Bonnie, Lexi, James, Gale

Choral Response *In this time* Sivis

In this time of quiet reverence, God, fill us now with everlasting peace,
And may each and every day we live bring true faith in your abiding love.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *O How He Loves You and Me* Kaiser

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *I love to tell the story* 480

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Let us now depart in thy peace* adapt. Bristol
You may follow the text in the hymnal, #444

POSTLUDE *Majestic* Mason

Here, O Lord, words Tokuo Yamaguchi 1958, trans. Everett M. Snow; music Isao Koizumi 1958
CCLI License # 11546442 CCLI Streaming # 20543232

We Shall Walk, words Pamela Martin, music Lee Dengler © 2009 Hal Leonard Corporation
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

In this time, words & music Larry Sivis 1985 © 1995 Chalice Press
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Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Andrew Elliott, *Pastor*

Mark Remick, *Liturgist*

Sue & Mike Fuller, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Rev. John A. Lacey, *March Deacon*

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

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.



When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



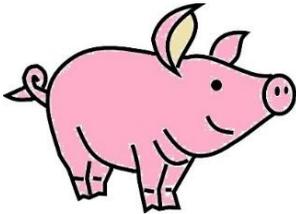
ucc.org/oghs

First Church will accept gifts to this special mission offering through the month of March. Please use a pew envelope and write OGHS in the memo.

Roast Pork Supper

Saturday, March 28, 2026

5:00 to 6:30 pm



Roast pork, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans, salad, rolls, homemade pies, and beverages (coffee, tea, lemonade)

\$12 per person ~ \$25 per family (2 adults, 2 children)

Great food ~ Great company ~ Great fun

We need volunteers to set up, cook, serve, wash dishes, and bake pies. Please contact Lois Stevens immediately about the ways you can help.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 140 MEALS ON MARCH 4.

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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