



First Congregational Church UCC

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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 PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

*All Glory, Laud and Honor
Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

arr. Lau
arr. Carter

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Come, let us gather at the foot of the cross.

All: We come to witness love poured out for the world.

One: Though darkness fell and hope seemed lost,

All: We come seeking the light of Christ.

One: The curtain is torn, the way is opened—

All: We come into the presence of God.

One: Truly, this is the Son of God.

All: We come to worship with reverence and hope.

*HYMN

Lift high the cross

108

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, we come this day with humble hearts, drawing near to the cross of Christ. In the silence, teach us to listen. In the suffering, help us to see your love. In the darkness, remind us that your light still shines. Open our hearts to the depth of your grace and meet us here in this sacred moment. Shape us by the love poured out on the cross, that we may leave this place changed. Amen.

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Mary Turner

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 *Hosanna Unto the King* Patterson

The congregation is asked to join the choir at the bold text below; it is a familiar hymn tune. The music is on the back page of the bulletin.

Hosanna unto the King. Lift up your voice and let us sing
Unto the king, unto the King of kings. (repeated)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Riding through Jerusalem he comes. Sing Hosanna! Hosanna!
**Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
To Jesus who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**
The simplest and the best. Come sing Hosanna to the King!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Oh God of Love, as we hear this story, keep us from turning away from the hard parts. Break through our assumptions. Challenge what we think we know. Help us see Jesus clearly, not just as we want him to be, but as he truly is. Open our hearts, shake us awake, and meet us right here. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Gospel

Matthew 27:11-54

pew Bible p.28 NT

SERMON **When faith costs something, where would you stand?**

*HYMN

Were you there

198

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Robert, Robert, Bill, Evan, Gayle & Chris

Response

The Lord's Prayer

310

The choir will lead the congregation singing this prayer.

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.



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE April 2, 7 p.m. Our friends from the Ellsworth Falls UCC congregation will share this service with us here at FCC.

SUNRISE SERVICE ON THE STEPS next Sunday at 7 a.m.
With breakfast to follow in the fellowship hall.



While the church steeple is being cleaned and repaired, we are not ringing the bell at the beginning of morning worship. Once this project is completed, we will restore this item to the Order of Worship.

DID YOU KNOW? One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) began in 1949 as an ecumenical, hour-long radio appeal aimed at raising \$1 million for post-war World Relief. Initiated by church leaders, it involved major radio networks and over 75,000 churches across multiple denominations to support global relief. The official "One Great Hour" radio broadcast took place on the Saturday evening before Easter in 1949, featuring celebrities and President Harry Truman, who urged listeners to build a better world.



THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 146 MEALS ON MARCH 25.

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

HOSANNA UNTO THE KING

CONGREGATION

Words and Music by
MARK PATTERSON (ASCAP)

(on cue) *f* **43** **Triumphantly** (♩ = ca. 116)

*Ho - san - na, - loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren
sang; Through pil - lared - court and tem - ple the
joy - ful an - them rang; To - Je - sus who had
blessed - them close - fold - ed to His breast, the
chil - dren - sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a tempo marking of **43** **Triumphantly** (♩ = ca. 116). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases marked with slurs. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

* TUNE: ELLACOMBE, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl - Württembergischen Katholischen Hofkapelle*, 1784; alt. 1868

TEXT: Jenette Threlfall (1821-1880)

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