



First Congregational Church UCC

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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 EASTER & HOLY COMMUNION

April 5, 2026

10 a.m.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Jesus Christ is Risen Today
Crown Him With Many Crowns

arr. Lasky
arr. Lasky

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

He is Lord
You may follow the text in the hymnal #117.

Fettke

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We come carrying what the world told us was final, grief, loss, endings.

All: But the tomb does not get the last word.

One: We have walked roads of doubt, whispering, “we had hoped...”

All: And still, hope shows up anyway.

One: Uninvited. Unexpected. Alive.

All: Breaking in where we thought nothing could live again.

One: God is setting a table in the face of death.

All: Tears are wiped away. Death is defeated.

One: The risen Christ is here, walking beside us, calling us forward.

All: So, we rise. We hope. We worship. Because the grave was never in charge and hope is alive.

*HYMN

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

215

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

God of resurrection, we come carrying what we thought was over, grief, doubt, and stories that felt finished. Meet us here. Walk beside us in the places we don't understand. Open our eyes to your presence, even now. Set your table among us. Break through what feels final. Remind us that the tomb was never in charge. And where hope feels distant show up anyway. In the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.

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 *The Lord is Risen This Morning!*

Besig

The Lord is risen this morning, hallelujah, hallelu!
Yes, the Lord is risen this morning; there's brand new day a-dawning
When the women came to see the place where Jesus lay,
They found the tomb was empty; the stone was rolled away.
An angel stood before them and this is what he said:
"Do not seek the living Lord here among the dead."
For the Lord is risen this morning...sing glory hallelujah.
And when the people heard the news they told it far and near:
The Savior is arisen, the promised day is here!
He died for our salvation, to take our sins away.
Now our Savior lives again on this Easter Day!
For the Lord is risen this morning...Christ the Lord is risen.
Glory, hallelu!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

**God of the living Word, we don't come for comfort we come to see.
Open our eyes like on the road. Burn your truth within us. Break
through our doubts and fears. Where we think the story is over, speak
again. Wake us up. Let these words be encounter revelation,
resurrection. In the name of the Risen Christ, Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

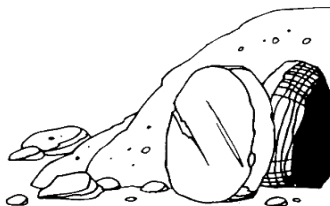
Old Testament
Gospel

Isaiah 25:6-9
Luke 24:13-49

pew Bible p.612 OT
pew Bible p.78 NT

SERMON

The Tomb Was Never in Charge
Hope showed up uninvited



HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn *Seed, scattered and sown* 395

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

God of the open table, we thank you for meeting us here in bread, in cup, in presence. You have fed us with grace and reminded us that life is stronger than death. Now send us out. Make what we've received visible in how we live. Where there is despair, let us carry hope. Where things feel finished, let us speak life. Because the tomb was never in charge, and we will live like it. Amen.

*HYMN *Thine is the glory* 218

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries: Olivia, Greg & Jenn

Choral Response *Amen* Greek

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *Morning Has Broken* arr. Hopson

*DOXOLOGY 46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *He Lives!* 226

*BENEDICTION

The Lord is risen this morning! words & music Nancy Price & Don Besig © 1999 GlorySound
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming # 20543232

Lynn Hall, *Organist*

Nancy Sargent, *Choral Director*

Andrew Elliott, *Pastor*

Brendan Minear, *Liturgist*

Anne Bancroft & Cindy Sargent, *Communion Stewards*

Kara Ibarguen & Brendan Minear, *Ushers*

Lois Stevens, *Greeter*

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

Cindy Sargent, *April 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.

Draw Us Forth

Draw us forth, God of all creation.

Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
into the immense world of your love.

Give us the capacity to even for a moment
taste the richness of the feast you give us.

Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
with questions,
with doubts.

Help us to experience the resurrection anew
with open wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.

- Author Unknown

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 146 MEALS ON APRIL 1.

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