

*Come with hope or despair,
expectation, or disappointment, and
seek God even as God seeks you.*



First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Ellsworth, Maine

Today is **World Communion Sunday**. It began in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, led by the Reverend Hugh Thomson Kerr. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted it in 1936, and the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches) helped make it a global, ecumenical celebration in 1940. World Communion Sunday highlights the interconnectedness of Christian congregations worldwide, crossing boundaries of language, culture, and denomination.

*Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available—
please ask an usher if you require them.
Thank you for silencing electronic devices before worship begins.*

****Please stand as you are able.***

ORDER OF WORSHIP
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

October 4, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE

The Church's One Foundation
How Great Thou Art

arr. Burton
arr. Carter

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

We come as guests invited

Steurlein

We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
His friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
The bread of life is broken, the wine is freely poured
For us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: The world has many names for us, many labels, many ways of
deciding who belongs.

All: But God calls us by name and says, "You are mine."

One: We come carrying the words others have spoken about us—and the
words we have spoken about ourselves.

**All: But God sees beyond every label and calls us precious and
beloved.**

One: Jesus sees those the crowd overlooks, welcomes those others push
aside, and calls each of us into grace.

**All: So today, let the labels fall away and let the voice of God speak
louder.**

One: Come, beloved of God. Come as you are. Come and worship the One
who knows you completely and loves you still.

All: We are known. We are loved. We belong. Let us worship God!

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Loving God, you know us by name and see us for who we truly are. Quiet the labels, expectations, and judgments we carry, and help us hear your voice above all others. Remind us that we are precious in your sight and held in a love we do not have to earn. Teach us to see ourselves and one another through your eyes. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

In Remembrance

Ragan & Red

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.

In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.

In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in. Let him in.

Take, eat and be comforted. Drink, and remember, too,

That this is my body and precious blood, shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.

In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above,

But in your heart. Look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious God, as your Word is read, open our hearts to hear your voice calling us by name. Help us look beyond the labels we carry and the labels we place on others, so that we may see ourselves and one another through the eyes of your grace. Speak to us anew, and remind us who we are and whose we are. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Isaiah 43:1-4

pew Bible p.631 OT

Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

pew Bible p.71 NT

When the Stickers Stop Sticking. *You Are Special!!*

HOLY COMMUNION

*Hymn

I come with joy

420

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this table, for the bread and cup, and for the grace we have received. You have reminded us once again that we are known, welcomed, and loved. Bless the gifts we offer and send us from this table ready to share that same grace with others. Help us to see beyond labels, welcome without judgment, and remind every person we meet that they are precious in your sight. Amen.

*HYMN

My life flows on

619

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays:

Karen, Jane, Donna, Deborah, Abby, Daniel

Silent Prayer & Pastoral Prayer

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 Response

Alleluia, amen

Wiltse

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY	<i>Joy Comes with the Dawn</i>	Light
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*DOXOLOGY		46
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*DEDICATION		
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*HYMN	<i>They'll Know We Are Christians</i>	494
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*BENEDICTION		
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POSTLUDE	<i>Trumpet Rondo</i>	Harris
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We come as guests invited, tune WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN Johann Steurlein, 1575 | Public Domain
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In Remembrance, Ragan Courtney & Buryl Red
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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 130 MEALS ON SEPTEMBER 30.

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.**, 207-667-8321, to reserve a meal.
Donations always gratefully received.

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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