



First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
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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.
Thank you for silencing electronic devices before worship begins.*

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

October 11, 2026

10 a.m.

PRELUDE	<i>Variations on HENDON</i>	arr. Lasky
	<i>The Lone, Wild Bird</i>	arr. Lau

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Surely the presence of the Lord</i>	Wolfe
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)

Psalms 23 (CEB)

One: The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

All: He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters; he keeps me alive.

One: He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.

All: Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they protect me.

One: You prepare a table before me right in front of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

All: Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord as long as I live.

*HYMN

Jesus, lover of my soul

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*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Holy Love, your presence is our sanctuary. We gather at your invitation to be in community with you and one another. Enliven our hearts. Nourish our spirits. Encourage our souls. Expand our minds. We seek truth and righteousness. We thirst to give and receive compassion and grace. Let us feast on your word, release our concerns in prayer, and offer our praise in thanksgiving. Be glorified among us, O God, our Redeemer, Host, and Friend. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

My Redeemer

see next 2 pages

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain with the choir.

CHORAL ANTHEM

My Redeemer

McGranahan

I will sing of my Redeemer and his wondrous love to me;
On the cruel cross he suffered, from the curse to set me free.
*Sing, O sing of my Redeemer! With his blood he purchased me;
On the cross he sealed my pardon, paid the debt, and made me free.*

I will tell the wondrous story, how my lost estate to save,
In his boundless love and mercy, he the ransom freely gave. *(Refrain)*

I will praise my dear Redeemer, his triumphant power I'll tell:
How the victory He giveth over sin and death and hell. *(Refrain)*

I will sing of my Redeemer and his heavenly love for me;
He from death to life has brought me, Son of God, with him to be. *(Refrain)*

Refrain

Sing, oh, sing of my Re-deem-er, with his
Sing, oh, sing of my Re-deem-er, sing, oh, sing of my Re-deem-er, with his
blood he pur-chased me;
blood he pur-chased me, with his blood he pur-chased me;

on the cross he sealed my par - don, paid the
on the cross he sealed my par-don, on the cross he sealed my par-don, paid the

debt, and made me free.
debt, and made me free, and made me free, and made me free.

Words Philip P. Bliss, music James McGranahan | Public Domain

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Gracious and almighty God, as we prepare our hearts to listen to your word, help us keep our ears open for what you would send to our hearts. Guide our thoughts to focus on you and gain understanding through your truth. Keep our spirits connected to the Holy Spirit so we can follow after you in renewed passion and joy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:1-9

pew Bible p.611 OT

Epistle

Philippians 4:1-9

pew Bible p.175 NT

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

pew Bible p.21 NT

SERMON

*HYMN

Rejoice, you pure in heart

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MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays: Jane, Michael

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

Almighty Father

Mendelssohn

Almighty Father, hear our prayer, and bless all souls that wait upon thee.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY

Loving Spirit

Copes

*DOXOLOGY		46
*DEDICATION		
*HYMN	<i>Where cross the crowded ways of life</i>	665
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>Grand March</i>	Krug

Surely the presence, words & music Lanny Wolfe © 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music
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The Gathering Prayer is from UCC.org worshipway

Almighty Father, words Anonymous, music Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1840 | Public Domain

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

VISITORS, GUESTS, AND SEEKERS ARE WELCOME

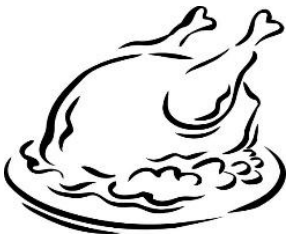
We pray that your experience of worship enriches and sustains you in the week ahead. If you are visiting, we hope you will introduce yourself to those around you and to the Pastor. Please join us for coffee after the service. If you have any questions, please ask an usher.

We welcome Anna Phillips, MA, to our pulpit today. She grew up in the woods in Penobscot and was educated in a mix of public, homeschool, and private schools in Maine before earning an undergraduate degree in forensic archeology at Vassar College and a master's degree in biblical history and geography (emphasizing the Old Testament) at Jerusalem University College in Israel. Since returning to Maine, Anna has taught and preached in various settings. Currently, she serves as the coordinator for the Greater Bangor Area Street Pastors and sits on the board of Dignity First, both organizations dedicated to outreach and service among the neediest populations in the greater Bangor area. Anna's hobbies include tending to a flock of backyard poultry, doing therapy work with her family's poodle, traveling as widely as she can, and reading texts both fascinating and challenging.

Roast Turkey Supper

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Serving 5:00 to 6:30 pm



Roast turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, rolls, squash, peas, Caesar salad, 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 126 MEALS ON OCTOBER 7.

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**