First Congregational Church UCC – Founded 1812
PO Box 12, 2 Church Street
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
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2026 **10 a.m.**

PRELUDE *Jerusalem, My Happy Home* arr. Hustad
Seek Ye First arr. Wagner

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT *Come and find the quiet center* Murray
Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: We gather today with grateful hearts, celebrating the gifts of God and the blessing of this community.

All: **We come with joy, knowing that we belong to one another.**

One: God calls us to share our gifts, open our hearts, and care for one another in love.

All: **Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ in this world.**

One: As we remember the blessings of yesterday and dream of the possibilities of tomorrow, may our hearts be open to where God is leading us.

All: **With grateful hearts, generous spirits, and hopeful dreams, we come to worship God! Let us worship together!**

*HYMN *Take my gifts* (vs 1, 2x) 381

*GATHERING PRAYER (unison)

Gracious and loving God, we gather with grateful hearts, thankful for the blessings of this community of faith. Open our hearts to share our gifts, inspire us to dream boldly, and give us courage to follow where You lead. May our generosity reflect Your love, bringing hope, healing, and joy to the world around us. Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Sometimes Alleluia* Girard

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain with the choir after the last verse. See page 4.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Loving God, as we hear Your Word today, open our hearts and minds to Your wisdom. Help us recognize the blessings around us, the gifts within us, and the love that binds us together. May Your Spirit inspire us to live generously, love deeply, and dream boldly. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament	I Chronicles 29:10-14	pew Bible p.357 OT
New Testament	Acts 2:42-47	pew Bible p.103 NT

SERMON **Because Our Hearts Are Here**
Stories of Love, Belonging & Generosity

*HYMN *We give thee but thine own* 382

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys & Concerns

Prayer for those Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries:
Nicole, Gregg, David & Susan

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 *Amen* Robinson

OFFERING OUR GIFTS & TITHES

OFFERTORY *To Know You More* Horness

*DOXOLOGY 46

*DEDICATION

*HYMN *'Tis the gift to be simple* 568

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *A Joyous Song of Praise* Lasky

Come and find the quiet center, tune BEACH SPRING; Public Domain
text Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Co. | CCLI License # 1156442 Streaming # 20543232

Sometimes Alleluia, words & music Chuck Girard © 1974 Sea of Glass Music
CCLI License # 11546442 Streaming 20543232

CHORAL ANTHEM *Sometimes Alleluia* Girard

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain
with the choir after the last verse.

Sometimes "Alleluia," sometimes, "Praise the Lord,"
Some gently singing, our hearts in one accord.

Oh let us lift our voices, look toward the sky and start to sing;
Oh let us now return his love,
Just let our voices ring! *Sometimes Alleluia…*

Oh let us feel his presence, let the sound of praises fill the air;
Oh let us sing the song of Jesus' love,
To people, everywhere! *Sometimes alleluia…*

Oh let our joy be unconfined, let us sing with freedom unrestrained;
Let's take this feeling that we feel now,
Outside these walls and let it ring! *Sometimes alleluia…*

Oh let the spirit overflow, as we are filled from head to toe.
We love you, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
And we want this world to know. *Sometimes alleluia…*



The Corinthian church lived in a culture that prized wealth, polish, and competition—and they were tempted to bring those same standards into their faith. Paul reminded them that God's wisdom does not look like the world's wisdom. It is not measured by numbers, status, or polish, but revealed through the Spirit in ways that often seem foolish to the world.

We face those same temptations today. Our culture whispers that success is found in bigger paychecks, well-padded retirement accounts, fuller sanctuaries, and shinier programs. We catch ourselves comparing—measuring our worth against the megachurch down the street or the neighbor who seems to have it all together. But stewardship invites us into a different story, one not rooted in comparison or accumulation, but in trust, generosity, and grace.

Faith and generosity are not automatic—they grow through practice. Over time, endurance grows and builds a giving muscle.

Likewise, stewardship is not a single act, not a duty to check off, but a way of training our lives in the direction of God's grace.

Gift by gift, practice by practice, we are being shaken and shaped into people whose very lives tell the story of God's abundance. That's the race we are running together, a race that leads us deeper into the wisdom of God. Each time we give, each time we open our hands, we are being stretched, shaken, and reshaped. Over time, what feels hard or uncertain begins to grow lighter, even joyful. That is how our lives echo the wisdom of God, not the wisdom of this age.

THE WELCOME TABLE SERVED 130 MEALS ON NOVEMBER 4.

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