



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *of Essex Junction*

Love. Serve. Grow.

A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All in the Spirit of Christ

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

1 Church Street Essex Junction, VT 05452

Phone: 802-878-5745

Website: www.fccej.org

Fax: 802-872-8236

E-mail: welcome@fccej.org

Holy Week & Easter Services – All Virtual!

Saturday Interactive Worship – April 11th @ 4:30 pm

- via Zoom (audio and video): <https://zoom.us/j/403773331>
- For audio only: Call 646-558-8656 / Meeting ID number: 403 773 331
- *What does resurrection mean for us? How does the resurrection of Jesus apply to our lives? We'll discuss these questions at this interactive worship service.*

Easter Sunday – April 12th @ 6:00 am (sunrise service) & 9:30 am

- via Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalej>
- 9:30 am Only: Broadcasting on **FM 104.1** – to listen, park in church parking lot
- Join us to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour on Zoom – After Sunday Morning Services!

<https://zoom.us/j/980588369> Meeting ID: 980 588 369

Good Friday April 10th, 2020 Streaming from Sanctuary

Order of Worship

Prelude Music.....Live from Carol

**Service Bulletin is Outlined on screen 15 minutes prior
Carol plays nice music**

Welcome.....Rev. Josh

Announcements

Upcoming Easter Services
Traditional Tenebrae Service of Shadows
Read passion story
Extinguish candles
Strip the Altar & Leave in silence

Standard Welcome

*No matter who you are or where you are
on your spiritual journey
let me welcome you to this Good Friday service.*

Prayer of Confession.....Rev. Josh

Opening Hymn

Just As I Am

Just as I am without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me
And that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am though tossed about,
with many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, your love unknown
has broken every barrier down
Now to be yours and yours alone
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Readings on Betrayal

Reader: Rev. Mark

Judas Betrays Jesus [Mark 14:10-11]

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Peter's Denial Foretold

26 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."'

28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.' ²⁹Peter said to him, 'Even though all become deserters, I will not.' ³⁰Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' ³¹But he said vehemently, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And all of them said the same.

Peter Denies Jesus

66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. ⁶⁹Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for

you are a Galilean.’ ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, ‘I do not know this man you are talking about.’ ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ And he broke down and wept.

Rev. Mark Extinguishes 1st candle

Reading on Jesus’ Pray in Gethsemane

Reader: Rev. Josh

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.’ ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, ‘Abba,^{*} Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.’ ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?’ ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;^{*} the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’

Rev. Josh Extinguishes 2nd candle

A Good Friday Taize Chant Anthem.....*Jesus Remember Me*

Reading on The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Reader: Rev. Mark

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.’ ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, ‘Rabbi!’ and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them, ‘Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.’ ⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled.

Rev. Mark extinguishes 3rd candle

Readings on The Trials

Reader: Rev. Josh

Jesus before the Council

66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. 67 They said, 'If you are the Messiah,* tell us.' He replied, 'If I tell you, you will not believe; 68 and if I question you, you will not answer. 69 But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.' 70 All of them asked, 'Are you, then, the Son of God?' He said to them, 'You say that I am.' 71 Then they said, 'What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!'

Reader: Rev. Mark

Jesus before Pilate

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' 3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' 5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Reader: Rev. Josh

Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified

6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7 Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8 So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9 Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' 10 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. 12 Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do* with the man you call* the King of the Jews?' 13 They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' 14 Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' 15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Rev Josh extinguishes 4th candle

Reader: Rev. Mark

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters¹⁶); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Rev. Mark extinguishes 5th candle

Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O, my soul!
What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul.

To God and to the lamb I will sing, I will sing!
To God and to the lamb I will sing!
To God and to the lamb who is the great I AM
While millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Reader: Rev. Josh

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus^{*} to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.^{*} ²⁹Those who passed by derided^{*} him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!' ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah,^{*} the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Rev. Josh extinguishes 6th candle

The Death of Jesus

Reader: Rev. Mark

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land* until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*' ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he* breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'*
⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Rev. Mark Extinguishes 7th Candle

The Burial of Jesus

Reader: Rev. Josh

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Then Joseph* bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body,* wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body* was laid.

Hymn

Were you There

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb

The Stripping of the Altar.....Depart in Silence

Announcements

Easter Flowers

The deadline to order flowers has passed, and we thank those of you who bought Easter flowers. Your bouquets will be displayed during our Easter teleworship service on Sunday, April 12th. All purchasers of flowers were recently contacted either by phone or email in which we asked what you would like done with your flowers after service. Some options include having us place your flowers “curb side” so that you may retrieve them at your leisure; donating the flowers (which staff & volunteers would distribute at their discretion); leaving the flowers at church; or having the flowers delivered to your home (though this requires some planning on our part.)

If you haven't responded with your preferences, then please, let us know by responding to the email, or send a new email to welcome@fccej.org; or call the Administrator at 1 802 878 5745 extension 100.

FCCEJ selected as Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program beneficiary

For the month of May, our Heavenly Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag at the Hannaford store found at 21A Essex Way, Essex Junction VT.

Hannaford Gift Cards are still available!

The church receives \$5 for each \$100 Gift Card we sell, and we appreciate this fundraising now more than ever! *Want to get started?* Contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com and she will mail a card to you. Let her know how much you would like to add to the card and send a check to the church. Be sure to put "Hannaford Card" on the reference line of your payment. *Need a refill?* Contact Pat Seaver at vtri2@aol.com and give her your name, the amount of money to be applied, and the last four digits of the gift card. Note: if you bought your card somewhere other than the church, you would need to provide the full length of digits. You will receive an email when funds have been added to your card. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing as the cards are done in batches. Questions? Please call Doug Ovitt in the Church Office at 802-878-5745 extension 100.

Please make checks payable to “FCCEJ” (or use online Bill Pay) and mail to this address:

Attn: Financial Secretary
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
1 Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

Please include “Hannaford Reload” and the date on the subject line of your email or check memo.

Ministry Directory

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mark Mendes [mmendes@fccej.org]

Associate Pastor: Rev. Josh Simon [jsimon@fccej.org]

Music Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Christian Education Director: Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org]

Church Administrator: Doug Ovitt [welcome@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: Jenny Bourn [jennybourn4@gmail.com]

& Laura Marthaler [Laura.marthaler@gmail.com]

Currier Bell Choir Director: Carolyn Harris [899-6759]

Finally @ First Director: Rick Dooley [rickdooley5@gmail.com]

Joyful Noise: Jessica Moos [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]

Men At First Director: Bill Bickford, Jr. [bill.bickford@aol.com]

Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director: Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Treasurer & Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]

Asst. Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Financial Secretary: Pat Seaver [879-4445]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Andrea Sharp [879-0580], Judy McCullen [878-9794]

Deacons: Judy Larrabee-Pomainville [802-236-0604]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Missions: Joanne Irwin [878-2528], Ed Steele [871-5897]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Barb Smith [310-2491]

Stewardship: Jessica Moos [399-8068], Shannon McCullen [922-8792]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: Justin King [238-6273], Jessica Moos [399-8068]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop Sue Wood [879-6552] OR woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]