



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 **Fax:** 802-872-8236 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org

Website: www.fccej.org



WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Visit this link to view our official calendar of events: <http://fccej.org/v5/calendar>

...and our Facebook events page: <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/events/>

We offer regular worship and fellowship opportunities, too! These include:



- ⊕ **Worship**, Sundays at 10am; Communion, 1st Sundays @ <http://youtube.com/c/fccej>
- ⊕ **Fellowship Hour**, after Worship @ <http://zoom.us/j/980588369>
- ⊕ **Faith Formation**, Sundays @ 9am via Zoom (2nd Sundays on Church Grounds)
 - *Link in Weekly Newsletter*
- ⊕ **Daily Devotionals**, Weekdays 8am @ <http://facebook.com/firstcongregationalej/>
- ⊕ **Sermon Talk Back**, Tuesday at 8:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>
- ⊕ **Life Story/Memoir Club**: 3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm via Zoom.
 - *For details, contact Pete Schmalz pnschmalz@comcast.net or P#879-3352*
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, Thursdays at 8am @ <http://zoom.us/j/97659276694>
- ⊕ **Noontime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays at 11:30am @ <http://zoom.us/j/626841083>

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 28th @ 10am via YouTube

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 1st @ 6pm via Zoom.

- Link: <https://bit.ly/3bLwHx9>*

**No password is required and the pastors themselves will usher you in.*

Good Friday: Friday, April 2nd @ 7pm via YouTube.

Easter: Sunday, April 4th. Two services:

- 6:30am (Sunrise) via Facebook
- 10am via YouTube



NEWSLETTERS

Signup Online! <https://bit.ly/3dwsHji>

Our weekly newsletter contains important announcements! View current and past issues here: <http://bit.ly/3rlslSv>

Our “SPIRIT@FIRST” monthly newsletter is available by snail-mail and email. Hard copies are available at church, too. If you wish to contribute content, it is due by the 3rd Friday of each month (except in November and December when it is due on the 2nd Friday.) Visit our archive:

<http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

We have a robust online ministry!



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39039ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

www.fccej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9



Order of Worship
March 28th, 2021: Live Streaming
Palm Sunday: The Sixth Sunday of Lent
Jesus' Journey of Transformation

The Order of Worship

Introductory Music

Begins at 9:45 a.m.

Announcements will be shown on screen

As worship begins:

Light a candle at home,

Sit in a comfortable spot,

Center yourself w/ breathing.

Service Input Preparation: Text NOW to make the service run more smoothly.

1 Thankfulness: Text Rev. Mark one thought of gratitude [(802) 922-1773]

2 Prayer Requests: Text Rev. Josh your Prayer Requests [(920) 858-6601]

Welcome..... Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

*“No matter who you are
or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome in this place.”*

Welcoming God’s Light into Worship

An Opening Reading on Gratitude [w/ congregation sharing – text in]

A Few Key Announcements

Hybrid Service Begins April 11th

Pastoral visits: simply call us up

Morning Devotions: Rev. Mark w/ Anne LaMott [webpage]

Faith Formation from 9 – 9:30 a.m. on line

Pick up bags of Materials @ admin door

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Director,

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

Lenten Schedule

Picking Up Your Palms 9-12 noon TODAY

Holy Week Services and Activities

Maundy Thursday: April 1st @ 6:00 p.m.

Zoom ID # 822 8263 1516

Good Friday: April 2nd @ 7:00 p.m. [more info coming]

Sanctuary Prayer Time:

Monday March 29th - Saturday April 3rd

From 10 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in ½ hour slots

And Twenty Minute stays

(Key announcements
continue on next page...)

Faith Formation Village Scavenger Hunt
7 homes with lesson and symbols given out
All walkable from church, All handouts are outside

Sunrise Service on Facebook Live at 6:30 a.m.: Rev. Mark Mendes

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Gary Hartman, Ed Guild,
Francis Gravel and Rev. Josh Simon orchestrating the technology today.

Musical Introit

Prepare Ye

by Sanctuary Choir

Stephen Schwarz © Hal Leonard Publishing
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Call to Worship [*Please join in from your homes and in church*]

Leader: Today is Palm Sunday, the day when we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem and being hailed as the “One Coming in the name of the Lord.”

People: Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Leader: When Jesus came humbly on a donkey, the crowds waved palms and spread their cloaks on the ground to honor the coming Messiah.

People: Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Leader: How powerful the emotion must have been when Jesus entered the temple and took everything in the day before all hell broke loose.

People: Ride on, ride on in majesty!

Leader: Come, let us celebrate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. Come, let us celebrate Jesus as he continues to come to us in parades and palaces, in poverty and darkness, in movements of justice and prayer’s sweet silence.

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Bill and Lynn Coddington

Prayer of Invocation..... Jody Pomainville, *Deacon*

Opening Hymn All Glory, Laud and Honor (#216) by Carol Spradling

*Participants in the Sanctuary are asked not to sing the hymns.
A soft hum and singing in your mind’s eye is allowed*

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ,
we sing, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
The people of the Hebrews with palms adorned your way;
our praise and prayer and anthems we offer you this day**

*(continued on
next page...)*

**O Promised One of Israel, of David's royal line,
the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!**

Meetings & Greetings Along the Road.....Travis, Megan and Lincoln Bartlett

Children's Message.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Offering Our Gifts to God.....Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

Invitation

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastoral Prayer **and Lord's Prayer**..... Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*
Text your prayers to Rev. Josh @ 802-922-1773

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.

Lighting the Lenten Candle.....The Bartlett Family
Travis, Megan and Lincoln

Sacred Readings: Mark 11:1-11

"Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem"

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately."' '

They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take

(continued on
next page...)

it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!’

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Anthem

Prepare the Way

by Sanctuary Choir

Music by Don Besig | Words by Nancy Price © 1995 Shawnee Press
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Sermon

“Christ’s Intentionality”

Rev. Mark Mendes

Closing Hymn

Blessed Be Your Name

by Finally @ First

Beth Redman | Matt Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music
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*Participants in the Sanctuary are asked not to sing the hymns.
A soft hum and singing in your mind’s eye is allowed.*

**Blessed Be Your Name;
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow;
Blessed be Your name**

**Blessed Be Your Name;
When I’m found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness;
Blessed Be Your name**

**Every blessing You pour out, I’ll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord;
Still I will say...
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be Your glorious name**

**Blessed be Your name;
When the sun’s shining down on me
When the world’s ‘all as it should be’;
Blessed be Your name**

*(continued on
next page...)*

**Blessed be Your name;
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering;
Blessed be Your name**

**Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord;
Still I will say...
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
Blessed be Your glorious name**

**You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say,
Lord, blessed be Your name! (2x)**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord,
blessed be Your glorious name! (2x)**

Benediction and blowing out our candles

Let There Be Peace on Earth

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God our Creator, family all are we,
Let me walk with my fellow in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

Please, join us for Fellowship Hour — Meeting ID# 980588369 OR bit.ly/31dXQ76

GOD OF LIGHT, HEAR OUR PRAYER

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)

Bruce Giannuzzi

Ilya (Cathie Goodheart's friend)

Russ & Alma Wilson

The Poratti Family

The O'Neil Family

Bruce Giannuzzi

Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)

Nancy (Carolyn Toof's friend)

Steve Mitchell

Jed Cilley & Family

The Shearer Family

David (David Irwin's friend)

The Forbes Family

Paul Hyde & Family

Bonita (Judy McCullen's friend)

Nancy Hayes

Marsha Duell

Jane MacFarland (Sue Wood's cousin)

The Bartlett Family

Judy (Cathie Goodheart's cousin)

Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)

Peat Taylor

Betty Moody & Family

**All persons affected
by the Coronavirus**

Rusty Sargent

**The altar flowers are given by
Alison & Carl Wermer
In honor of children & family spring birthdays!**

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

Visit this link to reserve yours!

bit.ly/33JWlxj

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, need prayers for yourself or a loved one, or require a call from a pastor, contact welcome@fcej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.



Mission Moments

March 28, 2021
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday
Mark 14:1-15:47
Into Jerusalem

Imagine you were there that day.

Today, the day is known as Palm Sunday and we celebrate mostly sedately, with children waving palm leaves and songs of joy.

But it would not have been so that first day. On that first day of the first holy week, it was dusty and noisy, crowded and chaotic. On that day, Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem was just one more distraction and delight, a spectacle for a city in a festival mood. On that day, no one but Jesus could imagine the week that was to come, with its loyalties and betrayals, politics and pieties, losses and griefs. No one could have anticipated that the week would end in death and in resurrection.

What would it be like to enter the city again, as they did that first day so long ago? What would it be like to come to this day with no knowledge, no expectation of how this week would end? Each year, we are invited to re-enact the events of this week. Not as a tired recitation of a story whose ending is already known, but as living and breathing people, ready to experience each day anew.

Many faith communities will worship together several times this week. Even if your community does not gather for all these days, how can you mark each day this week?

You can find guides and resources to creating fresh and imaginative worship this Holy Week, and every week, at: https://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

Palm Sunday: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Maundy Thursday: Jesus' last supper with his disciples

Good Friday: A day of mourning

Easter Vigil: Keep awake through the night in prayer, grieving and anticipation

Easter: Resurrection Day

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

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

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

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

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

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

Music

Director, **Sanctuary Choir & Heavenly Harmony:** Carol Spradling [cspradling@fccej.org]

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

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

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

Officers

President: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Vice President: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Financial Secretary: Rob Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Treasurer: Dan Petherbridge [879-0261]

Clerk: Christine Sinkewicz [878-4470]

Historian: Ann Gray [878-4088]

Auditors: Betsy Weischedel [922-2094] & Steve Wood [878-3068]

Committee Chairs

Christian Education: Lisa Clark [872-5849]

Communications: Francis Gravel [802-318-6235]

Deacons: Judy Pomainville [236-0604]

Finance & Pastoral Relations: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Hospitality: Jim Glatz [503-5076]

Human Resources: Maureen Evans [233-6127]

Missions: Paula Sargent [879-3598]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Dick Harris [644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGeary [879-2062]

Ushering: Marlene Frank [872-9126]

Recognized Groups

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop: Sue Wood [878-3068] woodsusanjane@gmail.com

Heavenly Food Pantry: Valerie Gabert [879-0109]

Please note: Nominating committee is still reviewing this content due to recent changes. Questions/concerns regarding the directory or other particular aspect of church life may be sent to the relevant committee's chair. (See "Committee Chairs", above) Or, you may email welcome@fccej.org for assistance. 😊