



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 **E-mail:** welcome@fccej.org **Website:** www.fccej.org



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

August 15th, 2021

Order of Worship

Live Stream begins at 9:45 a.m. with announcements and introductory music which begins approx. five minutes before 10 am.

As worship begins

Light a candle at home

Sit in a comfortable spot,

Center yourself w/ breathing

Prelude

Worthy, You Are Worthy / Holy Holy Holy

by Don Moen and John Dykes; arrangement by Susan Naylor Callaway
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performed by
Denise Keating, *Piano*

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

A Few Key Announcements

Hybrid Service: Recommend Mask wearing, soft singing, just come

Faith Formation: materials in Narthex for pickup @ services

Music: Carol Spradling: Music Dir. on medical leave of absence,

Filling in Marie Johnson and Denise Keating

Sanctuary Choir: Our Traditional Choral Group

Finally at First: Our Praise Band

As always great to have Jonah Moos, Ed Guild, Gary Hartmann
and Francis Gravel operating the live stream tech.

Musical Introit

Who You Are to Me

by Hillary Scott, Chris Tomlin, Charles Kelley, and Dave Haywood
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performed by
Laura & Eva
Cunningham-Firkey

Call to Worship.....Carolyn Rushford, *Deacon*

Leader: Welcome to Jesus' movement, a way of forgiveness, grace and love. We fall short of God's glory and perfection, but God still loves us and inspires us to live better lives. We are always growing and seeking God.

People: I sometimes get lost, but count on God's eyes to find me. I am sometimes blinded by pride, greed or simply the busyness of life, but Jesus helps me see more clearly what's important.

(continued on next page...)

Leader: May God's presence found in nature, logic, morality, Jesus' teachings, community, sense of justice, love or the mysterious sense of being connected to the divine continue to guide me all the days of my life.

Opening Hymn

Amazing Grace (#547, NCH)

performed by
Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Prayer of Invocation.....Carolyn Rushford, *Deacon*

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

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer..... Rev. Josh Simon, *Associate Pastor*

*Test prayers to Rev. Josh @ (920) 858-6601
Please, note two slight changes*

Loving God, 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 do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Prayer Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children

Ken Medema (C) 1973 Hope Publishing Company
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performed by
Denise Keating, *Piano*

***Lord listen to Your children praying
Lord send Your Spirit in this place
Lord listen to Your children praying
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace***

It is a joy to baptize Trenton. The proud parents are Joshua Yandow and Christina Verrill. The God-parents are Zach Perry and Ali Cooley. Let us give the entire Yandow family a warm and hearty welcome!

Sacred Readings

2 Samuel 24:10-25..... Shared by Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

Judgement on David's Sin

But afterwards, David was stricken to the heart because he had numbered the people. David said to the LORD, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, I pray you, take away the guilt of your servant; for I have done very foolishly.' When David rose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 'Go and say to David: Thus says the LORD: Three things I offer you; choose one of them, and I will do it to you.' So Gad came to David and told him; he asked him, 'Shall three years of famine come to you on your land? Or will you flee for three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to the one who sent me.' Then David said to Gad, 'I am in great distress; let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into human hands.'

So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from that morning until the appointed time; and seventy thousand of the people died, from Dan to Beer-sheba. But when the angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented concerning the evil, and said to the angel who was bringing destruction among the people, 'It is enough; now stay your hand.' The angel of the LORD was then by the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was destroying the people, he said to the LORD, 'I alone have sinned, and I alone have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house.'

David's Altar on the Threshing-Floor

That day Gad came to David and said to him, 'Go up and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' Following Gad's instructions, David went up, as the LORD had commanded. When Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming towards him; and Araunah went out and prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, 'Why has my lord the king come to his servant?' David said, 'To buy the threshing-floor from you in order to build an altar to the LORD, so that the plague may be averted from the people.' Then Araunah said to David, 'Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him; here are the oxen for the burnt-offering, and the threshing-sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.' And Araunah said to the king, 'May the LORD your God respond favourably to you.'

But the king said to Araunah, ‘No, but I will buy them from you for a price; I will not offer burnt-offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.’ So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being. So the LORD answered his supplication for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

I Kings 2:1-4, 10-12.....Shared by Laurie Chipman, *CE Director*

David’s Instruction to Solomon

When David’s time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: ‘I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn. Then the LORD will establish his word that he spoke concerning me: “If your heirs take heed to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail you a successor on the throne of Israel.”’

Death of David

Then David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Anthem

Hold On To Me
by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan, and Paul Mabury
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performed by
Laura & Eva
Cunningham-Firkey

Sermon

“The Greatness of King David”

Rev. Mark Mendes

Sermon Questions? Please, text Rev. Mark @ (802) 922-1773

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

Closing Hymn

Abide with Me (#99, NCH)

performed by
Marie Johnson, *Organ*

**Abide with me; fast falls the even-tide;
The shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ who changes not, abide with me.
I need your presence every passing hour;
I need your grace to foil the tempter's power.
Give me your love my guide and stay to be,
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still if you abide with me.**

**Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me.**

Pastoral Benediction.....Rev. Mark Mendes, *Senior Pastor*

Sung Congregational Benediction

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.**

Postlude

To God Be the Glory
by William Doane; arr. by Jennifer Cook
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performed by
Denise Keating, *Piano*

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY

If you require prayers for yourself or a loved one; or if you wish for a call from a pastor, please contact welcome@fcej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Richard Ansell (Carol Spradling's father)
Bruce Giannuzzi
David (David Irwin's friend)
Nancy Hayes
Russ & Alma Wilson
Gary Knapp (Jackie Knapp's Son)
Steve Mitchell
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)
Patty Garvey

Dave Johnson
Joe and Ann Wells
Carol Spradling
Friends & Family of Barb Auch (Donna Burnett's friend)
John Mauger
Robert Howe
Matt McGeary & Family
The Family of Mary Gellatly
Jordan
Jonah Moos' Father
Sean McKenzie
Harsh Shah
Jaime Real
Path & Faith Lavelly
Claire Glatz
Ann Gray
...and all persons affected by COVID19



The flowers on the altar are given by
Nancy Engle & John Ferris
In loving memory of
Marion Ferris

ALTAR FLOWERS REQUESTS

All altar flowers request slots for 2021 are fulfilled!

If you wish to retrieve your flowers, please email welcome@fcej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

NEWSLETTERS

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

Our "Weekly Update" eNewsletter:
<http://bit.ly/3rlslSv>

Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" eNewsletter*
<http://fcej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>

*available in a printed, snail-mailed format



On hiatus during summer:

Daily Devotionals;
Thursday Coffee Clatter;
Zoom part of Fellowship Hour



Sunday Worship @ 10am (Hybrid Format!)
Communion on 1st Sundays
Teleworship: [youtube.com/c/fcej](https://www.youtube.com/c/fcej)



Sermon Talk Back (Hybrid Format!)
Tuesdays @ 8:30am, Marvin Lounge
...and Zoom: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



Life Story/Memoir Club
3rd Wednesdays @ 1pm
Contact Pete Schmalz (pnschmalz@comcast.net)



Noontime Book Group
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, Marvin Lounge
Zoom component is on hiatus



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fcej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Staff

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

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

Minister of Visitation: Rev. Ron Faux [revronfaux@gmail.com]

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

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

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

Music

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

Currier Bell Choir: Alison Wermer [clwerme@msn.com; P# 879-7650]

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

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

Officers

President: Cathy Shearer [878-6023]

Vice President: Brenda Dawson [1-802-881-5253]

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: Brenda Dawson [1-802-881-5253]

Missions: Paula Sargent [879-3598]

Music: Denise Keating [345-8900]

Nominating: Dick Harris [1-802-644-6488]

Stewardship: Kathryn Brennan [878-9509]

Trustees: Kaki McGearry [879-2062]

Ushering: 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]