

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
September 5, 2021: In Sanctuary and Streamed
Theme:**

The 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 by Marie Johnson

God Bless America

Irving Berlin

Welcome.....Rev. Mark Mendes: Lead 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: Masks Required, soft singing allowed, 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,
Francis Gravel and Harsh Shah operating the live stream tech.**

Introit by Marie Johnson

O Grant Us, God, A Little Space

By John Ellerton

Call to Worship [Deacon Judy McCullen]

Leader: Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction. We are thrilled that you are with us personally or joining us on line. Everyone is welcome here and offered the love of God.

People: God loves me; Jesus loves all of us and Love's Spirit's is etched deeply in every one of our souls. Our Creator shows no partiality.

Leader: Jesus reached out and welcomed folks from all walks of life to his movement. He got in trouble and died for this very thing. Let us enter into this hour of praise with humility and gratitude. Come, let us worship the Living God.

Hymn by Marie Johnson

All People that on Earth Do Dwell # 7

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
Delight in God whose praise you tell,
Whose presence calls you to rejoice.**

**Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid
Who claims us, gives us all we need
Whose tender care will never fade.**

**Proclaim again that God is good
Whose mercy is forever sure
Whose truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure**

Prayer of Invocation by Deacon Judy McCullen

Children's Message by Rev. Mark Mendes

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer..... Rev. Josh Simon

E-mail prayers to Rev. Mark @ 802 922-1773

NOTE AND EXPLAIN: 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.

Musical Prayer Response

**O Source of All That Is
by Johann Heermann**

Sacred Reading

Mark 7:24-37 [page 33].....Read by Rev. Mark Mendes

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

James 2:1-17 [page 179].....Read by Rev. Ron Faux

Warning against Partiality

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please’, while to the one who is poor you say, ‘Stand there’, or, ‘Sit at my feet’, have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’, also said, ‘You shall not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have

become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

Faith without Works Is Dead

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Anthem by Marie Johnson

America the Beautiful

Ward

Sermon

Speaking the Plain Truth

Rev. Mendes

Sermon Questions: Text Rev. Mark @ [802 922-1773]

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Today we are going to take communion in the sanctuary.
Each pew will receive a plate with a small cup of juice and crackers.
It will be prepared and sealed with plastic wrap with all due precaution.
Once directed by Rev. Mark or Josh,
remove your mask,
take off the plastic wrap,
dip the cracker into the juice,
partake of the elements,
then put your mask back on.**

**A Deacon will then come around and take the plate
and any unfinished bread or juice.**

Offering Our Gifts to God..... Rev. Josh Simon

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Closing Hymn

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

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**Lead on Eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way
Loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day
Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong
To carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong**

**Lead on Eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear
For in each human conflict, your words of strength we hear
That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fail
Our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all**

**Lead on Eternal Spvereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease
And all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace
Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free
To love and serve each other for all eternity.**

Pastoral Benediction: Rev. Ron Faux

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 by Marie Johnson

**Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory
Julia Ward Howe**

Announcements and Zoom Fellowship Hour: meeting ID # 980 588 369