



# 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](mailto:welcome@fccej.org) **Website:** [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
Sunday, January 23, 2022—10am  
**The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

The Order of Worship

*Our Service is streamed and begins at 10am with access on our webpage @ [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org).  
You can watch the service any time thereafter.  
Our Faith Formation Program for all children occurs in-person and via Zoom at 10:30am.*

***Currently, masks are required for all attendees.***

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

Prelude Prelude and Fugue in C J.S. Bach  
Marie Johnson, organ

An Extravagant Welcome  
*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey  
you are welcome in this place.*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements  
*Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some significant events and or  
announcements in our shared life.*

Musical Introit Come Holy Spirit Foreman  
Judy Pomainville & Doug Olufsen, vocalists

Call to Worship .....Deacon Rusty Sargent

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise our God.

**People: We are your people God and we come to give homage.**

Leader: Thank you Lord for bringing meaning, peace and joy into our lives.

**People: We welcome you into our hearts and lives Loving Lord.**

Leader: Jesus, we follow in your way to offer kindness to all people.

**People: Thank you Jesus for teaching us how to live.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise our God.

Opening Hymn **O God Our Help in Ages Past** #25, vs. 1 & 3

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.  
Our shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal home.**

**Before the hills in order stood or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting you are God and endless years the same**

**Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer ..... Deacon Rusty Sargent**

**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.

Gospel Scripture Reading

Luke 4:14-30 (page 47)

Read by Laurie Chipman

**The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

**The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, ‘Is not this Joseph's son?’ He said to them, ‘Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Doctor, cure yourself!”

And you will say, “Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.” ’ And he said, ‘Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.’ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Children's Message ..... Rev. Josh Simon

Pastoral Prayer ..... Rev. Josh Simon

## A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

## Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Prayer Response      Hear Our Prayer O God

George Whelpton

Judy Pomainville & Doug Olufsen, vocalists

<b>Hymn</b>	<b><u>I Love to Tell the Story</u></b>	<b>#522, vs. 1 &amp; 4</b>
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**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.**

**I love to tell the story because I know its true  
It satisfied my longings as nothing else can do.**

**I love to tell the story and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

**I love to tell the story for those who know it best,  
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.**

**And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song  
Will be the old, old story that I have known so long.**

**I love to tell the story and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love.**

Prophetic Scripture Reading

Read by Deacon Rusty Sargent

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-8, 8-18 (page 340)

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.’ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, ‘Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.’ And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

### The Festival of Booths Celebrated

On the second day the heads of ancestral houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came together to the scribe Ezra in order to study the words of the law. And they found it written in the law, which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the people of Israel should live in booths during the festival of the seventh month, and that they should publish and proclaim in all their towns and in Jerusalem as follows, ‘Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written.’ So the people went out and brought them, and made booths for themselves, each on the roofs of their houses, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them; for from the days of Jeshua son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing. And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God. They kept the festival for seven days; and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the ordinance.

Anthem

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

Judy Pomainville & Doug Olufsen, vocalists

Sermon

Tried and True Touchstones

Rev. Mark Mendes

# Celebrating Our Giving to God at First Church

*Thank you to those at home who are joining us  
and financially supporting our ministry.*

*Thank you to folks in the sanctuary who are present  
and offering their gifts in the basket provided on the way out.*

*Thank you to everyone who has sent in their pledge card for 2022  
and for everyone planning to send it in shortly.*

**\*Hymn**

## Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

## #539, vs. 1 & 4

**Wont you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?**

**Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant too.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you**

**I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.**

## Benediction

Pastoral Benediction .....Rev. Josh Simon

## **\*Sung Community Benediction**

## Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.**

**God will go with you each hour of every day.**

**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there, holding you in love.**

**Go now in peace, in faith and in love.**

## \*Postlude

# Fanfare

Lemmens

Marie Johnson, organ

\*Please stand if you are able

# 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](mailto:welcome@fcej.org) or call 1(802) 878-5745.

Josh Ludwig  
Bruce Giannuzzi  
David (David Irwin's friend)  
Nancy Hayes  
Bill Barrett (Nancy Hayes son-in-law)  
Patty Garvey  
Dave Johnson  
Joe and Ann Wells  
Sharon Dettenrider

The Family of Mary Gellatly  
Jordan  
Sean McKenzie  
Jaime Real  
Claire Glatz  
Emily Broude  
Students (and their parents!)

...and all persons affected by COVID19

*The flowers on the altar are given by  
The Deacons  
in gratitude for the endless energy and dedication  
of our ministers and staff.*

## CONNECTIONS:

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

Our “Weekly Update” eConnection:  
<http://bit.ly/3rlsIsv>

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

*\*available in a printed, snail-mailed format*



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



**Sermon Talk Back**  
Tuesdays at 8:30am via Zoom through  
January: <http://zoom.us/j/740803865>



**Wednesday Night Searchers**  
7pm via Zoom—next meeting is January 19  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272183334>



**Noontime Book Group**  
3rd Mondays @ 11:30am, via Zoom in  
January

**Coffee Clatter** is on hiatus for the month of January



FACEBOOK

[bit.ly/39O39ht](https://bit.ly/39O39ht)



INSTAGRAM

[bit.ly/3rlfgZf](https://bit.ly/3rlfgZf)



INTERNET

[fcej.org](https://fcej.org)



YOUTUBE

[bit.ly/3oPpBv9](https://bit.ly/3oPpBv9)

**WARNING FOR THE 154th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ESSEX JUNCTION**  
**Sunday, February 6th, 2022**  
**11:15 A.M.**

To the members of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction,

**GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST:**

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction will be in the Sanctuary and via Zoom (using this web link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82278309940> ) on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 11:15 A.M. to act upon the following business:

- Article I:** To hear and act upon the reports of the Church Officers, Committees and Recognized Groups of the Church.
- Article II:** To act and vote upon the proposed budget for 2022.
- Article III:** To elect all church officers and committees required by the by-laws of the Church and others as may be necessary.
- Article IV:** To give authorization to the Finance Committee to borrow money and sign notes pledging the credit of the Church, if needed, to meet the current expenses of the Church.
- Article V:** To transact any other business which may properly be brought before this Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Church,

*Christine Sinkewicz, Church Clerk*