



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
Sunday, February 6, 2022—10am
The Order of Worship

Our Due to the recent rise in COVID19 cases, we are offering one worship service at 10am which is both in person and streamed live and available afterwards through our webpage: www.fccej.org. Normally, our First Service begins at 8:30am with organ and traditional choir and is in person and streamed and with access on our webpage. You can watch that service any time thereafter. Our Second Service with our praise band is live in the sanctuary at 10:15am and is not streamed.

Currently, masks are required for all attendees.

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

Prelude

Prelude #1

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

Bring Many Names

Brian Wren/C. Young**

Marie Johnson, organ

Call to Worship Deacon

Leader: Come, let us gather together to celebrate life, unite in common purpose and seek to create a more just and loving world.

People: We offer ourselves up to this community knowing that our presence strengthens the ministry and calls us to participate in building Jesus' kingdom in our little corner of Vermont.

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

Great is your faithfulness,
 O God Creator
 With you no shadow of turning we see.
 You do not change,
 your compassions, they fail not;
 All of your goodness for ever will be.
 Great is your faithfulness,
 great is your faithfulness
 Morning by Morning,
 new mercies I see,
 All I have needed, your hand has provided.
 Great is your faithfulness
 God unto me!

Pardon for sin
 and a peace so enduring,
 Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
 Strength for today
 and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
 Great is your faithfulness,
 great is your faithfulness
 Morning by Morning,
 new mercies I see,
 All I have needed, your hand has provided.
 Great is your faithfulness
 God unto me!

Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord’s Prayer.....Deacon

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.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Children’s Message Rev. Josh Simon

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Ron Faux

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Musical Prayer Response

God is Here Today

C. Michael Hawn**

Marie Johnson, organ

Anthem

I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee**

Marie Johnson, organ

Sermon

Asking the Pastors

Rev. Mark & Rev. Josh

On Annual Meeting Sunday, everyone is encouraged to ask Revs’ Mark and Josh a question by writing it down on the sheet provided in the bulletin. The Deacons will collect the questions immediately prior to the sermon. Everyone is invited to ask any question concerning any aspects of our ministry at First Congregational Church or even personal questions if appropriate in nature.

AFFIRMING OUR PARTNERSHIP OF MINISTRY

Deacon: On January 28, 2008, the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction called the Rev. Mr. Mark Mendes to serve as our Senior Pastor. On August 3, 2009, Laurie Chipman came to serve as our Christian Education Director. On March 2, 2017 Kul Dahal became our church's Sexton. On November 27, 2017, we called Josh Simon to be our Associate Pastor. On May 4, 2021, Rev. Ron Faux came to be our Minister of Visitation. On October 4, 2021, Jennifer Kelly came to be our Church Administrator. Marie Johnson and Denise Keating provide beautiful accompaniment for our times of worship. Come, let us affirm these decisions and ask our God to continue to bless our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We are blessed to have Mark, Laurie, Kul, Josh, Ron, Jennifer, Marie and Denise as our professional staff and we pledge our support to them as we partner in ministry on behalf of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.

Ministers and Staff: We thank the First Congregational Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to us over this last year. We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made. We are grateful for the ways our leadership has been accepted. And we look to the future with promise and optimism.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and re-affirm our commitment to your ministry. We express our gratitude for your dedication and work this last year. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith is appreciated as we move into the unknown future.

Ministers and Staff: We forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together, both in the past and time to come will be pleasing to God.

VOWS OF PARTNERSHIP

Deacon: Do you, the members and friends of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction promise your continued support of Mark, Laurie, Kul, Josh, Ron, Jennifer, Marie and Denise?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you offer your encouragement for their future ministry as it unfolds in new ways among us?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you, Mark, Laurie, Kul, Josh, Ron, Jennifer, Marie and Denise promise your continued support for the ministry of the church's leadership?

Ministers and Staff: We do, with the help of God.

Deacon: Do you offer your encouragement and prayers to all members and friends of this church, promising to treat all with the love of Christ? And do you promise to pray for them, journey with them in the exploration of faith, teach them of your knowledge and care for them to the best of your ability?

Ministers and Staff: We do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF SHARED MINISTRY

Church President: On behalf of the First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, I, Cathy Shearer, President of the Church, witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and a commitment to future ministry. I, along with the members and friends of this church hold both our ministers and our members accountable to the promises made this day. May we hold each other in prayer and pledge our commitment to our shared ministry in the future.

Everyone: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Deacon: Let us pray.

People: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. During this past year, we were united in your name and saw laughter and tears as well as hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move in new directions, as we work together to build a good and healthy church that gives glory to you here in Essex Junction. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation and Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Today, we will partake of communion by passing the bread and cup out to each person: the elements will be wrapped in plastic wrap with a small cup of juice. Each pew will get a plate to unwrap and share. Please wait for the minister to direct you to dip your pieces of bread into the cup and partake.

Special note: In order to welcome as many people as possible to Christ's table, all bread is gluten free and the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.

Absolutely everyone is welcome at Christ's table.

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.*

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of our God and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever,
and our confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call you,
come, O God of Hosts today,
With your constant, loving kindness
hear your people as they pray.
Give your fullest benediction;
grace to follow Christ, the way.**

**Here renew your servants vision,
that by faith they may attain,
Peace and hope, renewed compassion,
strength to comfort those in pain,
Tears and griefs transformed to gladness
in your everlasting reign.**

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction.....Rev. Mark Mendes

***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

Caprice

Alexandre Guilmant**
Marie Johnson, organ

*Please stand if you are able

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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@fceej.org or call 1(802) 878-5745.

The family of Tom James
The family of Lyn Codington
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 E.B. Gray
in loving memory of her husband, Jim Gray*

CONNECTIONS:

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

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

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

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



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



Sermon Talk Back
Tuesdays at 8:30am via Zoom until further notice: <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 until further notice

Coffee Clatter continues to be on hiatus—further updates as events warrant.



FACEBOOK

bit.ly/39O39ht



INSTAGRAM

bit.ly/3rlfgZf



INTERNET

fceej.org



YOUTUBE

bit.ly/3oPpBv9