



# 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)





## **PRELUDE CONCERT**

***Sonata No 6 in B flat major RV 46, Mvt. I Largo***  
***Antonio Vivaldi***

***Viola Sonata Op.5 no.3, Mvt. II Adagio cantabile***  
***Johann Nepomuk Hummel***

***Sonata in G Minor, Mvt. II Corrente***  
***Henry Eccles***

***Eddy Malave, viola***

***Do You Know the Way to Bethlehem***  
***Douglas E. Wagner***

***Men at First***

***Rejoice and Be Merry***  
***English Trad., arr. Reginald Jacques***

***Sanctuary Choir***

***During the concert, please enter the Sanctuary***  
***between musical pieces.***

***Please remain quiet while inside the Sanctuary.***  
***Thank you!***

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction  
Christmas Eve 2022  
**A Service of Lessons & Carols ~ 9pm**

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder; and his name will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end."*  
Isaiah 9:6-7

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

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

Christmas Introit

*Masters In This Hall*

Richard Ewer\*\*

Performed by Men @ First

A Prophecy About David

Ezekiel 37:24-28

Read by Jeremy Brennan

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to our Christmas Eve Candlelight service of lessons and carols. The sacredness of the service and its meaning in our lives echoes through the centuries. Come, let us listen for the faint, yet clear voices of those whispers of the past.

**Pulpit Side: We can hear the restlessness of a people living in darkness longing to hear the prophet's voice and the inbreaking of God's presence in the world.**

**Lectern Side: We can hear the fear and see the excitement of a young couple bringing a child into the world hoping that his life would bring hope and love to the people around him.**

**Pulpit Side: We can hear the whispers of generations who struggle with their own darkness, fear and excitement as they ponder what the Christ Child means for their lives.**

**Lectern Side: Tonight, our lives are a mixture of fear and love, darkness and light. We hope our children will survive these tumultuous days and thrive in bringing peace and justice to our world.**

Leader: Let us listen to the age old story and the voices of our past. Let us sing our hearts out with gusto for life. Let us welcome a blessed new child into God's narrative of love. And let us light our candles to diminish the darkness.

**\*Opening Carol**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.  
  
Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.  
  
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

The Prophecy About Bethlehem                      Micah 5:2-5                      Read by Shay Mendes

Lighting the Christ Candle .....Francis Gravel & Gary Hartmann

The Prophecy Foretold                      Isaiah 9:1-7                      Read by Justin & Genevieve King

The Sacrament of Baptism.....Aurora Ragan Jackson  
*We joyously welcome Aurora into our church community and Jesus’ movement of love and light. Her proud parents are Colleen and Shannon Jackson. Her God-parents are Hillary Jackson Benuck and Drew “Bulldog” Allan Gingras. Aurora’s proud grandparents are Michelle and Brad Jackson. Be sure to give them a warm First Church welcome.*

The Peaceable Kingdom                      Isaiah 11:1-9                      Read by Addie and Tristan Stein

**\*Carol                      Joy to the World                      \*\***

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Christ room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.  
  
Joy to the Earth! The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.  
  
Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove**

**The glories of God's righteousness and wonders of God's love,  
And wonders of God's love, and wonders, wonders of God's love.**

The Annunciation	Luke 1:26-38	Read by Joyce Jacobs
Sanctuary Choir Anthem	Still, Still, Still	**
The Birth of Jesus	Luke 2:1-7	Read by Jamie Shearer

**\*Carol**

**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
  
The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.  
  
Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Christmas Prayer and <b>Unison Lord's Prayer (trespasses)</b>	Rev. Josh Simon
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Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor: Let us pray.....

**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 Response      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**O Come, Desire of nations bind,  
all peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel.**

The Holy Child and His Visitors

Luke 2:8-20

Read by Donna Burnett

**\*Carol**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**\*\***

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
  
Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
  
Come to Bethlehem and see,  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

The Wisemen Come

Matthew 2:1-11

Read by Bob Driver

Spreading the Light of Christ

*From the Christ Candle, Rev. Mendes and Rev. Simon will light their candles and then proceed to pass Christ's light to the whole congregation. We ask everyone to be careful. On the way out, please extinguish your candles and place them in the receptacles. Thank you.*

The Light of the World

John 1:1-14

Read by Riley Elliot

## A Final Carol

## Silent Night, Holy Night

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*First, we will have one instrumental verse*

*Then the congregation will sing the verses,*

*Then we will finish with another instrumental verse.*

*Enjoy the quiet beauty.*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.**

**Round yon virgin, mother and child.**

**Holy infant so tender and mild,**

**Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherd quake at the sight**

**Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia.**

**Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.**

**Radiant beams from thy holy face,**

**with the dawn of redeeming grace**

**Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth**

## Pastoral Benediction

## Postlude

*Concerto for Viola in G Major,*

Georg Philipp Telemann\*\*

Eddy Malave—viola

Mvt. II Allegro

*The evening offering will be taken on your way out. Please give generously in the basket provided so the vital work of our congregation and our outreach to those in need may continue unabated.*

\*Please stand as you are able

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

- ♦ *Special thanks to the artists providing music for tonight's service:  
FCCEJ Sanctuary Choir, Men @ First, Emerson and Orion Stapleton—violin,  
Eddy Malave—viola, and Music Director Bethany Blake*
- ♦ *We will have only one Christmas Day service at 10am. It will be casual, include some tasty culinary treats, and kids are invited to come in their PJ's.*
- ♦ *We will also have only one worship service on January 1, 2023 at 10am.*

# Christmas Poinsettia Dedications

Betty Adams ..... In honor of family  
Bill Bickford Sr. .... In memory of Arlene Bickford  
Mindy & Bill Bickford ..... In memory of our dear mother, Arlene Bickford  
Dave & Bethany Blake ..... In memory of victims of gun violence  
Jenny Bourn ..... In memory of Thomas Connelly  
Brian & Laurie Chipman ..... In honor of all grandparents and great-grandparents  
Bill Coddington ..... In memory of Lynn  
Sue & Dennis Conti ..... In honor of our family  
Sharon Dettenrieder ..... In memory of Doug Dettenrieder and Eric Dettenrieder  
Myrna Doney ..... In honor of Christmas love  
Jen & Rick Dooley ..... In memory of Harry Dooley, and Dot & Joe Pine  
Howard & Janne Giles ..... In memory of Howard & Lois Giles and David & Anne Cozzens  
Gary Hartmann ..... In honor of Rev. Josh Simon's new ministry  
and in memory of my dad, Bill Hartmann  
Hoy Family ..... In honor of Thomas & Sarah Hoy, Guy & Sandy Stone, and our children  
Joanne Irwin ..... In honor of my family and in memory of Alan  
Linda B. Jackson ..... In memory of George A. Jackson  
Marie & David Johnson ..... In memory of loved ones  
Jen Kelly ..... In honor of Matthew, Scott, and Leona  
Derek Lyman ..... In memory of Brian Latuch and Phyllis Buchanan  
Judy & Kevin McCullen ..... In memory of Ed & Peg Hurst, and Donna McCullen  
McGeary Family ..... In memory of Nancy, Bev, Bob, Colleen, Kathryn, Trevor, and Kevin  
Mark Mendes ..... In memory of George, Margaret, and Jessica  
Elizabeth Miller ..... In honor of Mark Dolye and In memory of Dorothy Hart  
Jessica & Jonah Moos ..... In memory of Leora Moos and Annette Manly  
Mally Powell ..... In honor of the Christmas season  
Carolyn Rushford ..... In memory of my grandparents  
Sanctuary Choir ..... In memory of John Mauger and Marsha Duell  
Andrea & Steve Sharp ..... In honor of the fantastic staff at FCCEJ  
Cathy & Thomas Shearer ..... In memory of Malcolm Forbes and Pat Shearer  
Josh Simon ..... In honor of Kelly Simon & Bobbie Simon  
Lauren & Gorden Starkey ..... In memory of our parents: Gorden & Garnet Starkey  
and Richard Busciglio  
Heather Stein ..... In celebration of the Christmas season  
Ann Marie Sullivan ..... In honor of Michael & Ann Marie's 45th anniversary  
Beth Volker ..... In memory of Joan McGrath Greve  
Carl & Alison Wermer ..... In memory of our parents: Bob, Dorothy, Kerstin, John



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

Victims of gun violence and their families

Mally Powell

Family and friends of Wayne Hathaway

Faith Truax

Family and friends of Floyd Hewitt

Fletcher Coolidge

Maureen Evans

Grace Goodwin

LaPierre Family

Dan Harmon

Prajna Faux

Joe and Ann Wells

Elizabeth Stone

Sean McKenzie & Sandy Wynne

Bernie Currier

All those suffering due to  
the violence in Ukraine

Joyce Jacobs

...and all persons affected by COVID19

Ann Gray

## CONNECTIONS:

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

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

Our monthly "SPIRIT@FIRST" eNewsletter\* <http://fccej.org/v5/category/newsletters/>  
\*available in a printed, snail-mailed format



### Sunday Morning Worship

- In person & streamed @ 8:30
- In person & Faith Formation @ 10:15
- Communion on 1st Sundays

**Teleworship:** [youtube.com/c/fccej](https://youtube.com/c/fccej)



### Sermon Talk Back

Tuesdays at 8:30am in the Marvin Lounge and Zoom:

<http://zoom.us/j/740803865>

## ONGOING PROGRAMS!

- ⊕ **Tai Chi Class**, Tuesdays at 10:15pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ⊕ **Yoga @ First**, Tuesdays at 5pm in the Sanctuary
- ⊕ **Coffee Clatter**, every Friday @ 8am at Martone's
- ⊕ **Lunchtime Book Group**, 3rd Mondays in Marvin Lounge
- ⊕ **Bridge Group**, 3rd Fridays @ 1:30pm in Marvin Lounge



FACEBOOK

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



INSTAGRAM

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



INTERNET

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



YOUTUBE

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