



# 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**

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*First Service*

**The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction**  
**The Second Sunday After Epiphany**  
**January 19, 2025**

*The first Sunday of each month we celebrate the Lord's Supper with one unified service at 10am. The remaining Sundays of each month we offer two distinct worship services. Our first service, at 8:30am, is traditional with our Sanctuary Choir and organ music. Our second service begins at 10:15 and is more contemporary with music from our Finally @ First Praise Band. Our first service is streamed every week, and our second service is streamed on the third Sunday of each month. Our Faith Formation Program for PreK-8th grade occurs during our second service. Our nursery is open for children 6 months-3 years at both services (self-serve at 8:30 and staffed at 10:15). Currently, mask usage is up to each individual.*

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**Order of Worship**

Introit *Wade in the Water* 

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

The Deacon's Greeting  
*Our Deacon will welcome everyone to our community of faith; ask if anyone has special joys to share; invite any guest to introduce themselves if they want to and encourage anyone to fill out the welcome sheet found in the pew to lift up any needs and place it in the offering plate.*

Introit

Opening Psalm .....Psalm 100: Make A Joyful Noise to the Lord

Opening Reading of Joy by Karl Barth  
*Joy is the simplest form of gratitude*

**\*Opening Hymn** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* **#4**

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation .....Deacon Alison Wermer

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord’s Prayer (“trespasses”)**

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

**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**, and deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Prayer Response

**\*Hymn** *What a Fellowship* # 471

Scripture Readings		
Old Testament Prophetic	Isaiah 35	[page 513]
New Testament Historical	Philippians 4:1-14	[page 153]
Gospel	John 2:1-11	[page 71]

Anthem *Halle Halle Halle*

Sermon *The Purest Expression of Faith* Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem Offertory

**\*Doxology** #778

**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. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *Some Glad Morning* # 595

\*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

**\*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.**

\*Please stand if you are able

 *Presented in accordance with our Royalties for Spirituals Project: a practice of valuing musical contributions of enslaved Africans to American worship and song. We honor unrecognized musicians who created these pieces by singing them with reverence, gratitude, and open hearts. Royalties set aside for the use of these songs today will go to a local organization that supports African American musicians.*

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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@fcej.org](mailto:welcome@fcej.org) or call (802) 878-5745. Unless otherwise specified, prayer requests will be printed in the bulletin for a month.

Joanne Irwin

Jim Driscoll

Family and friends of Nancy Hayes

Fire victims, firefighters, and first responders  
in California

Victims of gun violence and their families

Ashley Frazer and Family

Marie Benway

Carol Daigle

Chris Hathaway

Bruce Parker

Kim Sonntag

Jon Eric Lindholm

Patty Giroux

All those suffering due to violence in  
Ukraine and the Middle East