



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



Second 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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| <i>A Welcoming Community</i> | <i>Accepting and Serving All</i> |
| <i>In the Spirit of Christ</i> | |

Order of Worship

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

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Michael W. Smith

Opening PsalmPsalm 100: Make A Joyful Noise to the Lord

Opening Reading of Joy by Karl Barth

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude

***Opening Hymn**

Standin' In the Need of Prayer 

#519

Deacon's Prayer of InvocationDeacon Alison Wermer

Children's Message

The Congregation Sings as the Children Come Forward

Jesus loves the little children, all God's children of the world.

Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through,

Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.

The Congregation Sings as the Children Transition to Faith Formation (PreK-8th)*

God has made us all a rainbow. Colors dancing ‘round and ‘round.

In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,

God has made us all a rainbow dancing ‘round.

[Parents, please collect your children by 11:30]

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.

A Musical Response

Lord, I Need You

Lord I need You, oh I need You.

Every hour I need You.

My one defense, my righteousness,

O God, how I need You.

You’re my one defense, my righteousness.

O God, how I need You.

Anthem

Who Am I

Casting Crowns

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]

Sermon

The Purest Expression of Faith

Rev. Mendes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem Offertory

Open My Eyes

Jesse Manibusan

***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.

*Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

*Sung Community 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 us walk with each other 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.

*Please stand if you are able

◆ *Sincere thanks to Rick Dooley and Finally @ First Praise Band for sharing their amazing musical talents with us this morning!*

✚ *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.*

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 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