



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
Ask the Pastor Sunday
January 26, 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.

<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

Step by Step

David Strasser

Opening Psalm 139

***Opening Hymn**

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

Deacon's Prayer of InvocationDeacon Bob Driver

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

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.

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.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Historical

Exodus 33:7-23

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New Testament Gospel

Luke 4:14-30

[page 47]

Finally @ First Anthem

Old Church Choir

Wedgeworth, Hulse, Williams

Please hand your questions to the Deacon at this time.

Sermon

Ask the Pastor

Rev. Mendes

On the anniversary of Rev. Mendes' arrival at FCCEJ, we offer an "Ask the Pastor" Sunday so that folks can check in and ask Rev. Mark questions about his ministry or the ministry of FCCEJ. Everyone is encouraged to ask Rev Mark a question by writing it down on the sheet provided in the bulletin. The Deacons will collect the questions during the hymn 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.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem Offertory

Everlasting God

Brenton Brown and Ken Riley

***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**

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Peter Scholtes

***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 the Finally @ First Praise Band for sharing their amazing musical talents with us this morning!*
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***The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Beth Paul
In memory of her grandmother, Margaret Baird.***

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