



# 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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Leader: We are grateful to live in Vermont with its beautiful green mountains, flowing streams, Maple trees and people that are rich in character, compassion and independence.

People: **God has blessed Vermont, our way of life and our First Church community.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and praise the Living God.

**\*Opening Hymn**

*All People That On the Earth Do Dwell*

# 7

Deacon's Prayer of Invocation & Unison Lord's Prayer

**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.

The Children's Message..... Rev. Mendes

**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 Return to Their Families**

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 ..... Pastor Bob

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Prayer Response

*Oh Lord, Hear Our Prayer*

Jacques Berthier

**\*Congregational Hymn of Choice**

*For the middle hymn, the worship leader will ask the congregation for suggestions to what to sing. This affords the congregation the opportunity to choose their favorite hymn for all of us to sing.*

Scripture Readings

Old Testament	Prophetic	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Read by Pastor Bob	[page 566]
New Testament	Epistle	Romans 6:12-23	Read by Rev. Mark	[page 119]
	Gospel	Matthew 10:40-42	Read by Donna Burnett	[page 8]

Anthem

*Moon River*

Johnny Mercer & Henry Mancini

Montana Trip Participants Share their Initial Reflections

*The folks from the Montana Service Trip got back into town at 12:17am this morning and wanted to share their initial reflections. Some could not make it to worship, and all of us are a little groggy so please listen with grace!*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

*Hallelujah*

Leonard Cohen

**\*Doxology**

**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.**

**\*Hymn**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**# 506**

**\*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.**

Postlude

*Get Me to the Church on Time*

Lerner & Loewe

**\*Please stand if you are able**



◆ *Sincere thanks to Denise Keating for providing the beautiful music this morning!*