



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



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Our worship opportunities during the year offer two services: one traditional with our outstanding organist and Sanctuary Choir at 8:30 a.m. and one less traditional with our talented Finally @ First Band and our Faith Formation Program for our children at 10:15 a.m. We meet together with communion on the first Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to join us as a precious child of God. Each week our service is streamed for all to see live or whenever they would like; check it out on our web page at fccej.org. From June 7th through September 6th, we have one service at 9:00 a.m. with our organist and a group of talented volunteers offering their musical abilities to God and our congregation.

A Welcoming Community

Accepting and Serving All

In the Spirit of Christ

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome and Announcements..... Pastor Bob

Opening Greeting Pastor Bob

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

What Grace Is Mine

Londonderry Air

arr. Lloyd Larson, Text by Kristyn Lennox Getty

Call to Worship..... Pastor Bob

Leader: In a world of shadows and shifting truths,

People: Jesus is the light that cannot be extinguished.

Leader: He illuminates our path and opens our eyes.

People: His light gives life to all who follow Him.

Leader: Let us step into that light with joy.

People: Let us worship the light of the world.

*Opening Hymn

Come, God, Creator, Be Our Shield

#69

Prayer of Invocation and **Unison Lord's Prayer** Pastor Bob

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.

Children's Message Joshua Sharp, M.I.D.

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

Musical Response

***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.

Old Testament Scripture Readings

Genesis 28:10-19 Read by Pastor Bob [page # 19]

Psalm 139 Read by Joshua Sharp [page # 448]

Anthem

God Is Our Rock

Pepper Choplin

Meditation

Joshua Sharp, M.I.D.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

***The 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.**

*** Closing Hymn**

Jesus-The Very Thought To Me

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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.
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**

***Please stand if you are able.**

- ❖ A special welcome and thanks to Josh Sharp, M.I.D., for participating in worship and giving the message this morning.
- ❖ Sincere appreciation to Bethany Blake, Doug Olufsen, Judy Pomainville, Denise Keating, and Pete Schmalz for sharing their fantastic musical talents with us.



****The flowers on the altar today are given by Sue & Dennis Conti,
In memory of Lorraine Conti****