

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST SUMNER**  
**National Association of Christian Congregational Churches (NACCC)**  
**Sixth Sunday in Easter**  
**May 5, 2024**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

**The Call to Worship**

**Psalm 98**

O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

Hymn            *"I Serve a Risen Savior"*            Hymnal #302

**\* The Gathering Prayer of Confession**

**\* The Invitation**

We come before God with words of psalm and hymn, seeking to give thanks for the gift of life, and the reality of new life in Christ. Yet we fall short of God's call, and it weighs upon our hearts. Let us pray.

**\* The Prayer of Confession**

**Lord of Salvation, we are privileged to be called Your friends, even Your children. The rivers, the seas, and all creation testify to Your power, and it does our hearts good to join that chorus. We confess, though, that we resist Your call and turn away from Your command. We choose to align ourselves with some people while neglecting others, as if Your love were not meant for all. We resist opening ourselves to Your law of Love and the new work You are doing. Our faith is fleeting, and our lives do not bear lasting fruit.**

*A moment of silent prayer*

**In Your new-every-morning mercy, forgive us, we pray, that as free people we might joyfully follow Your Spirit's leading. Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and lead us into what you would have us become, we ask through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

**\* The Assurance of Pardon**

In His love, God has redeemed us. He has loved us despite our many sins and faults. His love, His grace has given us a new day to be His people. Let us seek to love as He has called us to. Let us praise the Lord!

**\* The Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #734

**Scripture**

Acts 10:44-48

p 977/LP 1487

1 John 5:1-6

p 1084/LP 1649

John 15:9-17

p 956/LP 1459

**Sermon**

Bill Glass

**Prayers of the Church - Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)**

*Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

**\* Doxology**

Hymnal #34

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

insert

**Benediction**

**\* Response**    *"Blest be the Tie That Binds* (1<sup>st</sup> verse only)    Hymnal #393

***Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.***

**Postlude**

*\* All who are able, please stand.*

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For church or pastoral matters, feel free to contact Bill Glass (388-2263) or one of the deacons (Sheri, Jen or Polly). If you wish to ask for a visit or call, you may place signed notes (comments, etc.) in the offering plate.

The offering is being taken as a retiring offering, with the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.

By custom, during worship we share in Communion on the first Sunday of each month. If you wish to participate in Communion on another Sunday,

just mention that to the deacon or Bill. Communion is always available after the worship service.

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**This Week's Lectionary.**

<b>Mon. May 6</b>	Ps 93	Deuteronomy 7:1-11	1 Timothy 6:11-12
<b>Tues., May 7</b>	Ps 93	Deuteronomy 11:1-17	1 Timothy 6:13-16
<b>Wed., May 8</b>	Ps 93	Deuteronomy 11:18-21	Mark 16:19-20
<b>Thurs., May 9</b>	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 <i>or</i> 93	Eph. 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53
<b>Fri., May 10</b>	Ps 47	Exodus 24:15-18	Revelation 1:9-18
<b>Sat., May 11</b>	Psalm 47	Deuteronomy 34:1-7	John 16:4-11

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**Church calendar-**

Today	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. Communion. Deacons offering.
Monday, May 6	9am-Noon	Food Bank
Wednesday, May 8	6:30pm	Council meeting
Sunday, May 12	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. The Pipes. Mother's Day.
	10:45am	Deacons meeting
Saturday, May 18	9am-1pm	Spring Sale!
Sunday, May 19	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. The Apostles Creed. Pentecost.
Monday, May 20	9am-Noon	Food Bank
Sunday, May 26	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following.
Sunday, June 2	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. Communion. Deacons offering.
Monday, June 3	9am-Noon	Food Bank

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**Annual Spring Sale (May 18).** The annual Spring Sale is two weeks away! If you are not already part of one of the teams for the day of sale, please consider joining us for this time of fellowship and the opportunity to meet lots of neighbors. See Cyndy if you can help.

**Communion Today.** Today we resume our pre-pandemic process of communion – specifically returning to the custom of wine available in the outer ring of the plate and grape juice in all of the inner rings. You may take whichever you prefer. For Sunday worship we will also return to bread and not wafers. The deacons will serve the fruit of the vine first – please use the cup holders in the pew if you wish – and the bread second. Please retain both until we take them communally. Please use this time to pray and reflect.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF  
EAST SUMNER, MAINE

“We are a welcoming family of faith  
who proclaims God’s love and grace in words and deeds,  
in covenant with each other and in service to the community.”

*Worshipping and Serving since 1802*

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Ministers: The Gathered Community of Faith

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### **The Invitation**

**The Hymn of Approach** “*Let Us Break Bread Together*” Hymnal #699

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

God our Creator, we thank you for reaching out to call us, even when we are slow to answer. We give thanks for your great love, and for your presence in all that we do; for the gift of faith, growing within us, producing fruits according to your plan.

Most of all, however, we thank you for the life, the death and the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus. We thank you that when we had fallen from our created perfection, you came to us in Jesus, living the life that we live, walking the roads that we walk, serving us faithfully. In perfect love and obedience, he took upon himself the unearned death of a criminal, dying for our sins. You stamped his sacrifice with triumph, raising him from death, setting him over the entire created universe. Now, when our strength to carry on grows faint He is there; willingly bearing burdens too great for us; in him our faith and our worship find their perfect object, and by His grace our lives are recreated. Therefore, we join with joy the ancient chorus:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord,**

**Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to the Lord!**

### **The Commemoration**

On the night in which our Lord was betrayed, he sat at the table with his friends. Breaking bread, he said: “Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you. As often as you share it together, do it in remembrance of me.”

When the meal was finished, he poured a cup, blessed it and said: “Drink this all of you. This is my blood which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. As often as you share it, do so in remembrance of me.”

### **The Consecration**

Bless now these gifts of bread and wine, elements chosen from our common life. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, and upon us removing them from all common and ordinary use, letting them be, when received in faith, the body and blood of Christ, food for the journey on which he is both guide and

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goal. By that same Spirit, fill our minds and hearts with desire to offer our lives in service to you. Amen.

Thus we proclaim the core of our faith: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. These are the gifts of God. Receive them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **The Communion**

*We invite to the Table all who recognize Christ as Lord, regardless of denominational affiliation or lack thereof. Today we will receive the elements seated in our pews. Please wait until each element is distributed. We will consume the bread and the cup together. It is our custom to offer the cup as follows: the outer ring of cups is wine, while the inner rings are grape juice. Please keep silence until the prayer.*

### **The Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**Eternal God, we thank you for this simple meal. Let our sharing at this table be to the strengthening of our spirits, minds and bodies and lead us forth, renewed in faith to serve the world, through Jesus Christ: our Lord, our Savior and our Brother. Amen.**

**\*The Closing Hymn**

*“We Remember”*

*Insert*

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**A Note About Today's First Hymn,** ‘*He Lives*’ was written in 1932 by a Presbyterian minister, Alfred Ackley. Although he is best known for his contributions to church music, he was also a pastor. The hymn was written following a revival where a Jewish man questioned why he should believe, and then by a published sermon where a pastor, more or less dismissed, the reality and our need for the resurrected Christ. Some theologians have been concerned, over time, that the message of the hymn is focused on personal experience and not solely on Scripture.

We have talked at length about how our witness of Christ needs to be of Him in our lives – ‘how have we experienced Him?’. That does not detract from the Scriptural basis (which Ackley drew from Mark’s account of the Resurrection) or our reliance on Scripture as our authority (“Scripture Alone”). Just as we discussed last week concerning Philip and the Ethiopian, Philip relied on an explanation - a teaching - of the Scriptures to convey the Gospel to the Ethiopian. Yet, throughout the New Testament we frequently see references to the personal experience of those who testified – be it Paul or any of the original group of disciples that we read about in the Acts. It is not a question of Scriptural basis or experience – our testimony is from both – the texts that we read and the experience we have of God in our lives.