

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST SUMNER  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
6th Sunday after Pentecost  
July 12, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Call to Worship

Psalm 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

**I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.**

I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

**Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

Hymn "O Come To Me, the Master Said" Hymnal #346

\* The Gathering Prayer of Confession

\* The Invitation

Whenever we come before the Lord, we should come in thanksgiving for what we have been given. Yet we need also to come in humility, for our faithfulness does not match God's generosity. Let us pray.

\* The Prayer of Confession

**Lord of all life, we come to you this morning with praise and thanks for your goodness. But we also come mindful of our own shortcomings. Made to serve, we have sought first our own comfort; made to grow, we have been satisfied to stay as we are; made to love, we have put ourselves first. Forgive us, we pray, and help us reorder our lives according to the example of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\* The Assurance of Pardon

When we turn from worship of self, God is waiting to forgive our sins, and restore our lives. Let us praise God!

\* The Gloria Patri

Hymnal #734

Scripture Genesis 25:19-34 p 23/LP 32  
Romans 8:1-11 p 1004/LP 1527  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 p861/LP 1320

Sermon

Bill Glass

Hymn

"My Tribute"

Hymnal #363

What We Believe – The Heidelberg Catechism

**Q. 3. Where do you learn of your sin and its wretched consequences?**

A. From the Law of God.

**Q. 4. What does the Law of God require of us?**

A. Jesus Christ teaches this in a summary in Matthew 22:37-40: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." (cf. Luke 10:27.)

**Q. 5. Can you keep all this perfectly?**

A. No, for by nature I am prone to hate God and my neighbor.

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn "And Can It Be" Hymnal #366

\* Benediction

\* Response "Holy, Holy, Holy (1st verse only) Hymnal #136

\* 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 Cyndy Norton (388-2667).

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This Week's Lectionary.

**Mon., July 13** Ps. 142 Micah 1:1-5 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8  
**Tues., July 14** Ps.142 Jeremiah 49:7-11 Ephesians 4:17—5:2  
**Wed., July 15** Ps. 142 Obadiah 15-21 Matthew 13:10-17  
**Thurs., July 16** Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24 Isaiah 44:1-5 Hebrews 2:1-9

**Fri., July 17** Ps.139:1-12, 23-24 Ezekiel 39:21-29 Hebrews 6:13-20

**Sat., July 18** Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24 Exodus 14:9-25 Matthew 7:15-20

**Church calendar-**

Today 9:00am Worship in the sanctuary.  
10:00am Congregation Meeting  
Tuesday, July 14 6:30pm Council Meeting (Vestry)  
Sunday, July 19 9:00am Worship in the sanctuary.  
Monday, July 20 9am-Noon Food Bank open

**Called Congregation Meeting Today.** A called meeting of the congregation has been called by Council for today following worship. Please plan to stay – we need a quorum! The purpose of the meeting is to act on:

1. Council's recommendation to become a member church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC). While we would remain a member of the Maine Conference of the UCC, we have found that the NACCC offers some services that are better than what the UCC provides. When we began our pastoral search we listed through the UCC Maine Conference, directly on a number of seminary sites and as a non-member congregation of the NACCC. The NACCC listing costs \$150/quarter for non-member congregations. As a member church that listing and all other services would be free to us. Membership in the NACCC would run about \$315/year. This is the principle driver of the proposal to become a NACCC member congregation. Unlike a denomination (UCC being one), the NACCC does not take political positions and leaves that to congregations as they may wish. The spectrum of churches in the NACCC runs the full continuum, some liberal, some conservative and others in between.
2. The state has added a requirement for our bylaws that they must include a dissolution clause or we cannot be tax exempt. The proposed by laws addition will be Article 6 new Section 3: *Dissolution Clause. In accordance with the laws of the State of Maine, no member shall be entitled to a share in the distribution of any assets in the event of the dissolution of the Congregational Church of East Sumner.* We do not envision dissolution of the church and this is simply to comply with the law so that we retain our tax exempt status. As a practical matter, we would also retain the right to assign assets to another organization, such as either another church or some benevolent organization. The point is that since the assets of the church have been assembled for the good of the faith and the community that is where the ownership would reside, rather than with us as individuals.



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