

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST SUMNER
United Church of Christ
National Association of Christian Congregational Churches (NACCC)
1st Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Call to Worship **Psalm 148**

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them
praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory
is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to
him. Praise the LORD!**

Hymn *"O Come All Ye Faithful"* Hymnal # 182

*** The Gathering Prayer of Confession**

*** The Invitation**

Our God calls us to prepare room for Jesus in our lives, but we do not always respond with full hearts or determined minds. Let us pray.

*** The Prayer of Confession**

God our Father, we praise you, and thank you for making yourself known to us in Jesus. But we are slow to learn the love he came to teach. We still put our opinions before your truth; our comfort before your justice; our wants before others' needs. Forgive us, we

pray, and renew our minds, that our lives may give glory to you, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

Christ came in the way he did, so that we might see and understand and, thus seeing, would turn to him for healing and forgiveness.

*** The Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #734

Scripture	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	p 659/LP1006
	Galatians 4:4-7	p 1035/LP 1574
	Luke 2:15-21	p 905/LP 1383

Sermon

Bill Glass

*** What We Believe – the Heidelberg Catechism**

37 Q. What do you understand by the word "suffered"?

A. That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

38 Q. Why did he suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as judge?

A. So that he, though innocent, might be condemned by an earthly judge, and so free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.

39 Q. Is it significant that he was "crucified" instead of dying some other way?

A. Yes. By this I am convinced that he shouldered the curse which lay on me, since death by crucifixion was cursed by God.

*** Hymn** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* Hymnal # 188

Prayers of the Church - Joys and Concerns

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together.

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
Hymn "Joy to the World!" Hymnal # 179

* **Benediction**

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

* **Postlude**

* *All who are able, please stand.*

For church or pastoral matters, feel free to contact Bill Glass (388-2263) or Cyndy Norton (388-2667).

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

This Month's Mission Offering - The Christmas Fund for Clergy and Lay Workers. We have called this offering the Veterans of the Cross Offering. It provides supplemental support to retired UCC clergy who lack sufficient resources on their own.

Church calendar-

Today	9:00am	Worship, 1 st Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, Jan. 3	9:00am	Worship. 2nd Sunday after Christmas. Communion
Monday, Jan 4	9-Noon	Food Bank open
Sunday, Jan. 10	9:00am	Worship. Sunday nearest Epiphany
Tuesday, Jan 12	6:30pm	Council Meeting (Zoom)
Sunday, Jan. 17	9:00am	Worship.

This Week's Lectionary.

Mon., Dec. 28 Ps. 148 Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18

Tues., Dec. 29 Ps. 148 Isaiah 49:5-15 Matthew 12:46-50

Wed., Dec. 30 Ps.148 Proverbs 9:1-12 2 Peter 3:8-13

Thurs., Dec. 31 *New Year's Eve* Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Ps. 8 Revelation 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46

Fri. Jan. 1 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6a

Matthew 25:31-46

Sat., Jan. 2 Psalm 148 Proverbs 1:1-7 James 3:13-18

Vern's Birthday. Vern's 99th birthday is this week! If you've not sent a card or a note of good wishes, his address: 45 Main St. Sumner, ME 04292



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