

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EAST SUMNER
National Association of Christian Congregational Churches (NACCC)
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

The Call to Worship

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

**For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy
in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;**

Easter begins in despair. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday overshadow
us. Where are the promises? Our life, our love, our hope forever dead.

Who will roll away the stone?

Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning. The obstacles we expect
to face are removed. Where once there was death and despair with no
escape, now the bright light of hope brings freedom.

Where will we find him?

When faced by a miracle, our first reflex is to run. Be not afraid.

**You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen; he is not
here: see the place where they laid him. But go your way. Tell his
disciples and Peter that he goes before you into Galilee. There you
shall see him.**

Suddenly the realization dawns. It may rise as quickly as the sun creeping
over the horizon, or it may explode like fireworks, painting the world with
dazzle. We recognize the One who was dead as he returns, brimming with
life. Christ is risen, risen indeed!

**Alleluia. And all who encounter Jesus, risen, whether gently roused by
the sunrise or surprised by a sudden burst of joy, will join the
Resurrection Procession one by one, slipping into step. Some of us
singing, some of us silently soaking it in, some feeling like dancing,
some rising from our knees in awe.**

Brothers and Sisters, Christ is Risen!

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed.

Hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!" Hymnal # 288

*** The Gathering Prayer of Confession**

*** The Invitation**

God has raised Jesus from death. Let us give praise, and also confess our
failures to live as Christ has taught us.

*** The Prayer of Confession**

**Risen Lord, we are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song. We are
the Easter people come to worship, released from tombs of pain and
doubt and fear and death into the freedom of this new day, and its
promise of hope fulfilled. We are the Easter people, emerging into the
brightness of faith, blinking, questioning, wondering, hoping. Come to
us, into the garden of our lives, and touch all that is barren, and wasted
and dried with Your healing hand. Forgive our half-lived lives, our
broken promises, and our failed kindness. Call to us by our name, that
we might turn from all that limits and burdens us, and lift us up into
forgiveness and freedom. Open the gateways of our hearts and minds,
and call us out into Your world to be embraced by Your unfailing and
renewing mercy.**

A moment of silent prayer

**Today, in silence, prayer and song, may we encounter Jesus and His
grace. For we are the Easter people, and Alleluia is our song. Through
Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen**

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

The Resurrection opens a way to God for all who want to put the past
behind, living as Jesus showed us. Let us embrace his offer and praise the
Lord!

*** The Gloria Patri**

Hymnal #734

Scripture	Isaiah 25:6-9	p 624/LP 951
	1 Corinthians 5:6-8	p 1015/LP 1543
	Luke 24: 13-49	p 936/LP 1429

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 “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 one of the deacons. 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.

Annual Spring Sale (May 18). The sale includes plants, raffle baskets, beanhole bean lunches, bake sale goods and local vendors. It's time to start planning. A sign-up sheet will be posted on March 24 on the dining room bulletin board. The 1st organizational meeting will be **April 7** after Coffee Hour. The 2nd meeting to go over details will be **April 28** and the final check-list meeting will be **May 12**. We try to keep meetings under 90 minutes. All ideas and suggestions to make this a better event are encouraged. Cyndy Norton is the contact for vendors--207-388-2667 or norton@megalink.net. Let's plan some fun.

Church calendar-

Today	9:00am	Worship. Easter Sunday. Followed by brunch (bring something to share!)
Monday, Apr. 1	9am-Noon	Food Bank
Sunday, Apr. 7	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. Communion.
	10:45am	Spring Sale organizational meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 10	6:30pm	Council meeting
Saturday, Apr. 13	1-4pm	Woodcarvers
Sunday, Apr. 14	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following. The Pipes.
	10:45am	Deacons meeting.
	10:45am	Search committee meeting.
Monday, Apr. 15	9am-Noon	Food Bank
Thursday, Apr. 18	11am-2pm	Soup & sandwiches
Saturday, Apr. 20	8:30am-Noon	Work Day!
Sunday, Apr. 21	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following.
Sunday, Apr. 28	9:00am	Worship with coffee hour following.
Saturday, May 4	8:30am-Noon	Work Day!



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

50 Main Street, Sumner, ME 04292

207-388-2610 esummercc@gmail.com

<http://eastsumnercongregationalchurch.weebly.com>

Ministers: The Gathered Community of Faith

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Hymn of Preparation

“*Low in the Grave He Lay*” Hymnal #294

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

It is right, O Lord our God, to give you thanks in all times, places and circumstances, for all your many gifts and blessings to us. But most of all we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He lived among us as a man, demonstrated your love to our broken and fractured world, died for us, the undeserved, death of a criminal, that our sins might be forgiven. Dying, he destroyed death, and by his resurrection won eternal life for us, and for all that dwell in him.

Therefore, we join with angels, and archangels, and all the company of heaven, who forever proclaim your glory, saying:

**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 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. The cup is grape juice. Please keep silence until the prayer.

The Closing Thanksgiving

Thank you, O God, for feeding us with spiritual food in this sacrament of life. Send us now into the world with strength, hope, courage and love to serve you with gladness of heart through Jesus Christ: our Lord, our Savior and our Brother. Amen

***The Closing** “*Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!*” Hymnal #295

This Week's Lectionary.

Mon., Apr. 1	Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24	Gen. 1:1-19	1 Corinthians 15:35-49
Tues., Apr. 2	Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24	Gen. 1:20- 2:4a	1 Corinthians 15:50-58
Wed., Apr. 3	Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24	Song of Solomon 3:1-11	Mark 16:1-8
Thurs., Apr. 4	Ps. 133	Daniel 1:1-21	Acts 2:42-47
Fri., Apr. 5	Ps. 133	Daniel 2:1-23	Acts 4:23-31
Sat., Apr. 6	Ps. 133	Daniel 2:24-49	John 12:44-50

Easter Brunch Today! Join us in the vestry following worship for food and fellowship!

Work Days. Please mark your calendars for the work days on April 20th and May 4th. There's a lot to do in order to clean up the grounds and the church. There's a chore for everyone, whether you can work outside cleaning up behind the church, or restoring the gravel to the parking lot or doing one of the inside projects. Plan on 8:30am-noon each of those days.

Easter Comments From Our Presbyterian Friends:

TOMB EMPTY. JESUS IS ALIVE. LOVE WINS. GO AND TELL.

- *Not here. Try everywhere.*

- *Don't touch right now. But go instead, and tell.*