

July 26 – Welcome and announcements

Welcome to worship on this final Sunday of July. It is summer.

Our online prelude this morning is a different cover of something we have used before during this pandemic. We should focus not on who we say we are, but on who God says we are. What has he put in your soul? What gifts has he blessed you with? The Scriptures for today will ask similar questions.

The search committee will meet out under the pavilion following worship.

Next Sunday will be the first time since March that we will observe the Sacrament of communion. We are mindful that not everyone may be comfortable with this in this Covid world, so the bulletin has a note that explains generally how we will do this. We felt that with Covid apparently around for quite a while, it is important to resume this Sacrament and not wait for Covid to go away.

We remain blessed up here in Maine as much of the rest of the country struggles with the virus. I expect that much of the blessing has to do with how far apart we live and how we tend to keep to ourselves, anyway. But, it is important to see what is happening in the South and West. I am reminded of the pastoral intern at Spotsylvania who years ago preached that we should use the brains that God has given us. That is probably a good injunction at this point in our lives. If we remain careful, if we wear masks when with others, then we may yet get through this without great loss of life up here in the woods. Remember that it takes just one infected person to come to a family birthday party and then family members go shopping maskless to turn the community into an outbreak. Be careful. Be safe. We have all paid a price these past few months in isolation and cancelling swaths of our pre-covid lives. Let's not let that past effort be undone by carelessness or our conviction that nothing can happen to us.

Birthdays and anniversaries?