

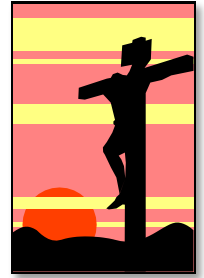
# Southern Maine Church of Christ

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**April 26, 2020**



*We love Him,  
because He  
first loved us.*

- 1 John 4:19 -

## The Nature and Character of God

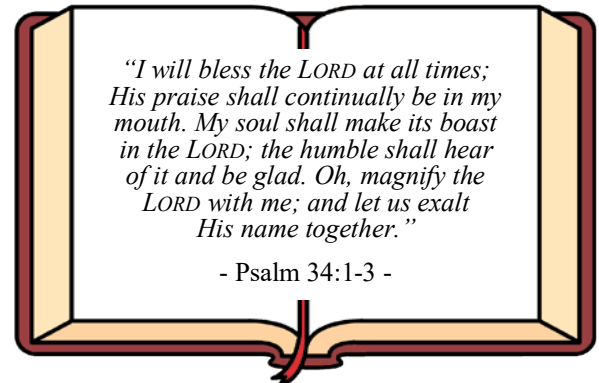


**I**n the middle of the second century A.D. a teacher by the name of Marcion saw a conflict between the God of the Old Testament and Jesus. He believed that God, as revealed in the Old Testament, was harsh, cruel and even vindictive. He saw these “evil” tendencies as a stark contradiction to the life and teachings of Jesus as revealed in the New Testament. As a result, Marcion chose to exclude whole books of the New Testament of which he disapproved and even rejected certain verses he disagreed with in the books he included in his canon of Scripture. As you may have guessed, Marcion’s teachings caused problems in the church and he was eventually denounced as a heretic.

God said through His prophet Malachi, “I the Lord do not change” (Malachi 3:6). While we do live under a different covenant, the God of the Old Testament *is* the God of the New Testament as well. He is immutable, constant and consistent. He does not change. The Book of Hebrews affirms, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever” (13:8).

One of the names of Jesus is Immanuel, meaning “God with us” (Matt 1:23). Jesus said, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30). “The Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God” (John 1:1). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14). Jesus is God in the flesh. He came to this earth to show us God. During His earthly ministry, Jesus clearly demonstrated the nature and character of God (Heb 1:3). He revealed God’s steadfast love (Rom 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10), tender mercy (Matt 14:14; John 8:10-11), heartfelt compassion and depth of feeling toward His creation (Mark 6:34; John 11:35).

Marcion was dead wrong. God is not harsh, cruel or vindictive. But He *is* just. He will hold everyone personally accountable for what they do (Rom 14:11-12; 2 Cor 5:10) and He *must* punish sin (Rom 2:5-6; 2 Thess 1:6-9). But He takes no pleasure in doing this (Ezek 18:23). “The Lord is...not willing that *any* should perish but that *all* should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9). God loves us and gave His only begotten Son to die for us, “to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be *just* and the *justifier* of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom 3:26). — Terry Schmidt ✍



## Visits to Our Web Page

This Week: 3,279

This Month: 10,116



## "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Acts 16:30 -

**Hear the Gospel** - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17

**Believe** [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31  
Heb 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

**Confess** Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;  
Rom 10:8-10

**Be baptized** - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;  
1 Pet 3:21

**Be faithful** unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

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*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

- Acts 4:12 -



## Prayer Requests:

*"Pray for one another"*

- James 5:16 -

- Billie Jo (Pat Miller's daughter) - recently hospitalized after suffering a nervous breakdown
- Corona Pandemic - its effect and overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - kidney disease; various health concerns
- Randy Cote - family problems
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho (Cathy's nephew) - permanently disabled and in need of prayer
- Bill Ferrigno (friend of Terry S) - recently diagnosed with lymphatic cancer
- Sandy Gagnon - health concerns
- Glenda's aunts in California:
  - Beverly* - pacemaker & hip replacement
  - Mary Lou* - kidney failure; now on dialysis
  - Sandra* - recent shoulder surgery
- Erik Grabowski - painful tennis elbow
- Janice Grabowski - large growth on left side of her neck causing pain; also lost her job due to the covid-19 virus
- Connie Henderson - recently diagnosed with a fast-growing ovarian cancer; scheduled to undergo 3 rounds of chemotherapy (had second treatment on April 22); chemo is working; white & red blood cells are in a normal range with cancer cells decreasing; this will most likely be followed by major surgery to physically remove the remaining cancer
- Terry Kennedy - healing well from recent right knee replacement surgery
- Leah (Glenda's daughter) - ovarian cancer
- Debbie McGarey (mother-in-law of Terry & Betty's daughter, Becky) - stage 4 throat cancer
- Pat Miller - being treated for diverticulitis
- George Nick - family issues & concerns
- Ernie Perry - dealing with COPD issues
- Norman Roy - at the Gosnell House in Scarborough in severe pain; pain meds being administered intravenously; prayers are needed
- Wayne Sampson - recovering from surgery on right shoulder; severe bursitis hip pain; also experiencing ongoing anxiety attacks
- Please pray for our nation - (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place

*"Pray without ceasing."* — 1 Thessalonians 5:17

## News & Notes:

- ⇒ Brother Paul Bullock will be at the building on Sunday morning at 9:30 for Bible study and 10:30 those few who may desire to worship and partake of the Lord's Supper.
- ⇒ Those worshipping at home can view this week's sermon **"Oh, Magnify the Lord!"** by going to our web page at: [www.southernmainecofc.com/](http://www.southernmainecofc.com/) Click on "Sermons." There are also other sermons available for you to view.
- ⇒ Sacred Selections, our song book, can be viewed at this website: <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/SS4C1956>
- ⇒ For the contribution, you can "lay by in store" (1 Cor 16:2) each week that which you have "purposed in your heart" to give (2 Cor 9:7) and keep it till we resume meeting again. Or, you could mail it to our church treasurer, Wayne Sampson.

### New Address



Joanne Neithercut, who has visited with us a number of times, is now a resident at *Seal Rock Healthcare at Atlantic Heights* in Saco. She is doing well but, due to the current lockdown, cannot be visited. For those who may want to phone her or send her a card, here is her address and phone number:

Joanne Neithercut  
Atlantic Heights  
100 Harbor Drive  
Room 64  
Saco, ME 04072  
Phone: 207-571-4742



*"When you get knocked down by the circumstances of life, the best way to get back on your feet, is to get down on your knees."*