

**Rangeley Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Church  
*Third Sunday of Lent***

March 24, 2019

10:00 AM

***Meditation:***

A number of years ago, I delivered a talk in Ottawa, Canada, on some of these themes. I referred especially to the prologue of the gospel of John and his words concerning 'the true light that enlightens everyone coming into the world' (John 1:9). I was inviting us to watch for that Light within ourselves, in the whole of our being, and to expect to glimpse that Light at the heart of one another and deep within the wisdom of other traditions. At the end of the talk, a Mohawk elder, who had been invited to comment on the common ground between Celtic spirituality and the native spirituality of his people, stood with tears in his eyes. He said, "As I have listened to these themes, I have been wondering where I would be today. I have been wondering where my people would be today. And I have been wondering where we would be as a Western world today if the mission that came to us from Europe centuries ago had come expecting to find the Light in us."

— J. Philip Newell in *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of the Creation*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Tune: IN BABILONE/Arr. Penny Rodriguez

INVOCATION (Unison)

**Almighty God, whose most dear Son for the joy set before him endured the cross, mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 63:1-8* Liturgist

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

**when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

\*GATHERING HYMN #459 (NCH)

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION\* (Unison)**

**Most perceptive and loving God, you know what is really the matter with us; why we fall so far short of the mark set by Jesus. Even when we are most willing, we seem incapable of outwitting evil through our own wisdom and strength. Again and again old sins hassle and trip us, and our best intentions get run over in the thick traffic of daily affairs.**

**We ask you, as we have so often, for forgiveness and repair. Leave nothing in our being untouched by the healing touch of our Savior. Be with us moment by moment, that silently yet irresistibly we may be carried forward in the current of your grace, mercy and peace. Let us begin again, ready to enact your will in all the events of this coming week...**

**TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE**

**TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Isaiah 55:1-9**

**Luke 13:1-9**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF MEDITATION #21 (NCH)

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

### SERVICE OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

*(As you name a joy or concern later in the prayer, please finish by saying “This is my prayer.” The church family responds by saying “This is our prayer.”)*

***We pray for:** Family and Friends of Roger Roy; Eva McMillan (medical tests); Sarah Brouse (fiancé of Dubay’s son Steven); Zeb Wentzell (Terri Wentzell’s grandson); Toni Millette; Becky Walker; Kris Nozal (Marcia Baker’s niece); Karen Lantz; Haelyn Vorous; our law enforcement personnel, first responders and the communities they serve; our military personnel worldwide; and all those who serve our country. And we hold in prayer those friends and members of our church family who are unable to join us in worship today.*

#### OUR LORD’S PRAYER (“forgive us our sins”)

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

#### CHORAL AMEN #812 (NCH)

“Threefold Amen”

### SERVICE OF GIVING

#### INVITATION

OFFERTORY

“How Great His Love”

Ruth Elaine Schram

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Merciful God, you have given us so much, without money and without price. Help us to freely give of ourselves in serving you and loving other people. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #197 (NCH)

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

(please be seated during the Postlude)

“Amazing Grace”

Tune: NEW BRITAIN/Arr. Garrett Parker

\*Prayer of Confession adapted from a prayer written by the Rev. Bruce Prewer

Special Thanks to:

- + Liturgist – Zenna Inness
- + Ushers – Paula Hatfield and Nancy Zambraski
- + Sunday School – Claire Chase
- + Coffee Hour – Sandy Moore, Sue Downes-Borko

- ✦ And, thank you to the Choir for today's special music: Anne Crump, Les Hoekstra, Zenna Inness, Kelsey Meehan, Sam Meehan, Annette Mott, Erin Smith, Dave Walker, Derek Wendelken, Linda Wendelken, Judy Wicken.

### ~This Week:

- ✦ The Ten Commandments Bible study resumes this morning in the East Room immediately following the Church Council update with Rick Baker during the fellowship time. We will focus on the fourth commandment about keeping the Sabbath. Our session on March 31 will focus on the fifth commandment about honoring your father and mother.
- ✦ Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 3/25, 8 am, Sanctuary
- ✦ Pastor Annette's "walk-in" hours – Tuesday, 3/26, 1-3 pm in her office.

### ~Next Week:

- ✦ The "Commandments" Bible Study, Sunday, 3/31, 11:30 (or so) after a short coffee hour.
- ✦ Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 4/1, 8 am, Sanctuary
- ✦ Christian Ed – Tuesday, 4/2, 8:30am, East Room
- ✦ Pastor Annette's "walk-in" hours – Tuesday 4/2, 1-3 pm in her office.

### ~Announcements:

- ✦ **How can one person change the world?** How can one person change the world?  
Sponsor a child....Plant a tree...Rebuild a home...Visit a prisoner ...Be a mentor...Teach ...Serve a meal...Bring water to the

desert...Pray...Donate...the opportunities are endless. And they're all right here. What part of our world is waiting for you to make a difference? Through One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

- Build sustainable communities. OGHS supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.
- Respond to disaster. OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.
- Minister to refugees. OGHS responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

In cooperation with Global Ministries, Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, Oikocredit, Freedom from Hunger and hundreds of local partners around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing is part of a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over.

The partnership we share with nearly 6,000 United Church of Christ congregations across the United States and Puerto Rico is where this remarkable miracle connecting UCC members to the world truly begins. The UCC annually channels more than \$3 million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is administered through Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

- ✦ We are looking for someone interested in a very-part-time job as Church Secretary. For more information or to express interest in the position, please contact Rick Baker, Linda Wendelken or Kathy Brittain.
- ✦ For the months of March and April, the Church Secretary hours will be on Mondays, from 11 am until 2 pm, and Fridays, from 9 am to 11 am.

**Rangeley Congregational Church, [www.rangeleyucc.com](http://www.rangeleyucc.com)**

Pastor	Rev. Annette Mott	864-5966 (Office),	737-9979 (Cell)
Church Office	rangeleyucc@gmail.com		864-5966
Secretary	Linda Wendelken		864-3885
Minister of Music	Sue Downes-Borko		864-3951
Council President	Rick Baker		864-3351
Chair of Deacons	Scott Hatfield		864-2053
Deacon of the Month	Nancy Zambraski		864-2250