

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

March 31, 2019

10:00 AM

Meditation:

Truth can be told in an instant, forgiveness can be offered spontaneously, but reconciliation is the work of lifetimes and generations.

— *Krista Tippett, in Speaking of Faith*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Tune: ST. COLUMBA/Arr. Jason W. Krug

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INVOCATION (**Unison**)

God of steadfast love and mercy, remind us once again that in Jesus Christ everything has become new. Too often, things seem as they have always been: old habits die hard; resentments linger; failures from our past refuse to let go of us. We look for your promised newness, but cannot see it. Speak to us again of your new creation, and open our eyes to its presence in our lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away;

see, everything has become new!

*GATHERING HYMN #423 (NCH)

“Great Is Your Faithfulness”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 32 read antiphonally)

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my
groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;
**at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not
reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from
trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will
not stay near you.

**Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love
surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for
joy, all you upright in heart.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

SERMON

HYMN OF MEDITATION #449 (NCH)

“Softly and Tenderly”

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: *Eloise Rose Lewis and the family and friends of Pilar Bates who passed away earlier this week, 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

"Lament"

Charlie Leftridge

*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)

Gracious God - as we present to you our tithes and offerings, we pray that you would help us to remember that all we have comes from you. Bless what is upon these plates and what is in our hearts so that together we may show forth the wonder and the power of your love to the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #228 (PH)

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

(please be seated during the Postlude)

“Lord, I Know I Been Changed”

Traditional American Spiritual/Arr. Larry Shackley

Special Thanks to:

- + Liturgist – Les Hoekstra
- + Ushers – Claire Chase and Linda Jones
- + Sunday School – Margie Jamison
- + Coffee Hour – Kathy Brittain and Judy Wicken
- + And special thanks to Sam Meehan for the trombone solo today.

~This Week:

- + The "Commandments" Bible Study, Sunday, 3/31, 11:30 (or so) after a short coffee hour. Our session today will focus on the fifth commandment about honoring your father and mother.
- + Tomorrow (April 1), the Rev. Doug Dunlap will speak at 6:00 pm at the Fusion Center, located at 117 South Street, Farmington on the UMF Campus. Doug's topic will be "Life Changing: a 1960's Peace Corps Volunteer in the Pacific Islands of Micronesia Looks Back - and Forward." The event is free and open to the public. Pastor Annette plans to attend, so see her if you need a ride.
- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 4/1, 8 am, Sanctuary
- + Prayer Shawl Ministry – Monday, 4/1, 2-3:30 pm, Barn
- + Christian Ed – Tuesday, 4/2, 8:30am, East Room
- + Pastor Annette's "walk-in" hours – Tuesday, 4/2, 1-3 pm in her office.

~Next Week:

- + The "Commandments" Bible Study, Sunday, 4/7, 11:30 (or so) after a short coffee hour.
- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 4/8, 8 am, Sanctuary
- + Finance – Monday, 4/8, 3 pm, East Room
- + Church Council – Monday, 4/8, 3 pm, East Room
- + Pastor Annette's "walk-in" hours – Tuesday 4/9, 1-3 pm in her office.

~Announcements:

- + Please read the enclosed brochure, and consider making a generous donation to One Great Hour of Sharing.
- + Please also consider brightening our sanctuary with Easter Plants, or making a donation for Fuel Assistance.
- + Sympathy notes and cards may be sent to Eloise Rose Lewis (Pilar Bates' daughter) at 294 Rt. 232 Bryant Pond, Maine 04219. Her phone number is in the church office if you'd like to call.
- + 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.
- + In April, Church Secretary hours will be on Monday, from 11 am – 1 pm, other times by appointment.

Rangeley Congregational Church, www.rangeleyucc.com

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| Pastor | Rev. Annette Mott | 864-5966 (Office), | 737-9979 (Cell) |
| Church Office Secretary | rangeleyucc@gmail.com | | 864-5966 |
| Minister of Music | Linda Wendelken | | 864-3885 |
| Council President | Sue Downes-Borko | | 864-3951 |
| Chair of Deacons | Rick Baker | | 864-3351 |
| Deacon of the Month | Scott Hatfield | | 864-2053 |
| | Evelyn Franson | | 864-2583 |