

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

April 7, 2019

10:00 AM

Meditation:

Do you want to fast this Lent?

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and trust in God
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

--Attributed to Pope Francis

ORDER OF WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Tune: ST. ELIZABETH/Arr. Erinn Schwartz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INVOCATION (Unison)

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant us grace to love what you command and to desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Break open our hearts to hear your word, O God.

Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Come and let us worship with joy!

Let us drop the things of the past which have weighed us down.

God is about to do something new in our lives.

May God's vision for us be ours as well!

*GATHERING HYMN #202 (NCH)

"O God, How We Have Wandered"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader Let us confess our sins together.

People: Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another and to the whole communion in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Leader We have not loved you with all our heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People Have mercy on us.

Leader We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People Have mercy on us.

Leader We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

Leader Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

Leader Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Leader For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us, forgive us and restore us, O God, for your mercy is great...

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 43:16-21

John 12: 1-8

SERMON

HYMN OF MEDITATION #417 (NCH): all 5 verses

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

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; Eva McMillan (medical tests); Sarah Brouse (fiancé of Dubai’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

“In the Garden/

What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

Tunes: GARDEN & CONVERSE/Arr. Brant Adams

*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)

Lord Jesus Christ, though you were rich, yet for our sake you became poor, so that through your poverty we might become rich. Accept these offerings of your people as a token of our gratitude for all you have done for us. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Truly it is a good, right, and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, for through your beloved Son, the old has passed away and the new has come. In him you have sought us out and welcomed us to your table. When those who could not understand his love and compassion crucified him, you raised him to new life, and through him you continue to reconcile the world to yourself. And so with the church on earth and the whole company of heaven we join our voices in their unending hymn of praise, saying...

Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty,

The whole universe speaks of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

REMEMBERING CHRIST'S WORDS

PRAYING FOR THE SPIRIT

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (**Unison**)

Generous God, in word and bread and cup we have experienced the mystery of your grace. Help us so to live our days that we may be signs of your wondrous love in the world; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #210 (NCH)

“Said Judas to Mary”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

(please be seated for the Postlude)

“Invention #13 in a minor”

J. S. Bach

~Special Thanks to:

- + Liturgist – Cyndy Egan
- + Ushers – Sam and Kelsey Meehan
- + Sunday School – Margie Jamison
- + Coffee Hour – Lourrie Chandler, Derek and Linda Wendelken

~This Week:

- + The "Commandments" Bible Study, Sunday 4/7, 11:30 (or so) after a short coffee hour. Our session today will focus on the sixth commandment forbidding killing.
- + Men's Breakfast – Monday, 4/8, 8 am, Country Club Inn
- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 4/8, 3-5 pm, Sanctuary
- + Finance – Monday, 4/8, 3 pm, East Room
- + Church Council – Monday, 4/8, 4 pm, East Room
- + Pastor Annette's "walk-in" hours – Tuesday, 4/9, 1-3 pm in her office

~Next Week:

- + The "Commandments" Bible Study, Sunday 4/14, 11:30 (or so) after a short coffee hour. The focus will be the seventh commandment forbidding adultery.
- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 4/15, 8 am, Sanctuary
- + Prayer Shawl Ministry – Monday, 4/15, 2-3:30 pm, Barn
- + Pastor Annette's "walk-in" hours – Tuesday 4/16, 1-3 pm in her office
- + Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae Service, Thursday, 4/18, 5 p.m. in the Barn (a simple meal of soup and bread will be served), followed by the draping of the cross in the Sanctuary

~Announcements:

- + The funeral mass for Jack Nutile will take place at 11:00 on April 12 at St. Luke's. The obituary will appear in the Sun Journal.
- + We are looking for someone interested in a very-part-time job as Church Secretary. For more information please contact Rick Baker, Linda Wendelken or Kathy Brittain.
- + Through April 24, the Church Secretary will be in the office on Monday, from 11 am – 1 pm, and will be available other times by appointment.

Rangeley Congregational Church, www.rangeleyucc.com

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