

Rangeley Congregational Church
Order of Worship – March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

Julian of Norwich ~ 1342-c 1416

“Where do we begin? Begin with the heart.”

“Be a Gardener. Dig a ditch. Toil and sweat. And turn the earth upside down. And seek the deepness. And water plants in time. Continue this labor. And make sweet floods to run, and noble and abundant fruits to spring. Take this food and drink, and carry it to God as your true worship.”

“God is our clothing, that wraps, clasps and encloses us so as to never leave us.”

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Coming Home

Mary McDonald, Words: William Kirkpatrick

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant: Come into this sacred space to worship God

**Liturgist: whose teaching is blessed and full of grace;
whose directions are sure.**

Officiant: Come into this holy place to worship God

**Liturgist: whose standards are right;
whose commandment is clear;
whose judgments are true.**

Officiant: Come with holy awe and joy –
to be given life, and made wise,
to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide.
Come — let us worship God.

**Liturgist: Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts
be according to your will, O God. Amen.**

PASTOR'S PRAYER

INVOCATION Psalm 19

Officiant: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

Liturgist: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

Officiant: In the heavens, God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Liturgist: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

Officiant: The law of the LORD is righteous, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

Liturgist: ... the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Officiant: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Liturgist: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have
dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Officiant: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
In your Gracious name, we pray. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: I Have Brought You Out of Egypt
Tune: BEACH SPRING / Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Officiant: In the Holy silence of the heavens,
Your presence glows in the silent succession of day and night.

Liturgist: While no speech, or word or voice is heard;
Your silence speaks to all the world;
your words resound to the ends of the universe.

Officiant: Your Holy light joyfully leaps from one end of the heavens
to its farthest reaches, and nothing across the skies
is hidden from your warmth or light.

Liturgist: Nothing is hidden from you, O Lord.
All that we say or do or whisper in our hearts, you hear.

Officiant: We are certain that you will release us
from any darkness that you may find deep within our lives.

Liturgist: Let our lives be radiant with Holy awe;
Let us delight in your teaching,
Let us receive insight from your guidance
and wisdom from your encouragement.

Officiant: Enliven our desire for your everlasting wisdom:
Liturgist: **encourage us to enjoy the sweet blessings of your love and care found in the good and nurturing relationships with those around us and with you. Amen.**

...time for silent prayer...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE ~ Pastor's Prayer

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17

- 20:1 Then God spoke all these words:
- 20:2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
- 20:3 you shall have no other gods before me.
- 20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
- 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me,
- 20:6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- 20:7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
- 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.
- 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.
- 20:10 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work--you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.
- 20:11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.
- 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

- 20:13 You shall not murder.
- 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.
- 20:15 You shall not steal.
- 20:16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

John 2:13-22

- 2:13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
- 2:14 In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.
- 2:15 Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.
- 2:16 He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"
- 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."
- 2:18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"
- 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- 2:20 The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"
- 2:21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body.
- 2:22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE Inspired by Love and Anger
Tune: SALLEY GARDENS/ Words: John Bell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please offer the names of those whom you would like added to our Prayer time this morning.

(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: Janet House, Becky and Dave Walker, Patrick Egan, Sam Meehan's Mom and her husband Nicole & LeRoy Hileman, Erin Smith, Tony McNaughton, Linda Caspar's niece Aubree Yanchick and her family, Scott and Janet Wilson and Janet's father John Owens, Marcia Baker's niece, Kris Nozal, Dave Walker's brothers, Tom & Peter Walker, Haelyn Vorous, the Daileys' son Rob, and our Members in Discernment Becky Walker and Scott Hatfield. We pray for safety and comfort for those who are struggling in unusual weather patterns.

Our law enforcement personnel, medical personnel and first responders, and our military personnel worldwide, and all those who serve our country We pray for the people around us this day for those who are upon our hearts and minds because of a need that they have...

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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, debts, trespasses) as we forgive those who (sin, our debtors, trespass) 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.

COMMUNION

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Officiant: May God be with you.

Liturgist: May God be also with you.

Officiant: People of God, open your hearts.

Liturgist: We open our hearts to God and to each other.

Officiant: Let us give thanks to the Living God.

Liturgist: With joy and with praise, we offer our thanks to the One who offers abundant life.

PREPARATORY PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

THANKSGIVING

CLOSING HYMN: God, We Praise You for the Women

Tune: HOLY MANNA/Words: Daniel C. Damon

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: You Say

Lauren Daigle, Jason Ingram, Paul Mabury

Special thanks to Scott Hatfield- Chair of Deacons for being our Liturgist, Erin Smith and Emma Jacot-Descombes will lead the singing, Dave Walker for the PowerPoint slideshow presentation and for setting up the Zoom live stream so we can worship together.

Deacon of the Month:

Linda Caspar

(207) 864-5539

We will hold a Zoom Tenebrae service on April 1 at 6:30. Unfortunately no soup supper this year. Please note the time and a Zoom invite will be sent prior.

Also, as we're all working remotely, we're not planning for additional flowers in the Sanctuary this Eastertime. If you would normally donate and dedicate flowers, for this year we encourage a donation to the Deacons' Relief Fund instead.