

Rangeley Congregational Church

Order of Worship – April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday – Communion Sunday

Irish Blessing ~

*May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.
May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.
May you always remember when the shadows fall -- you do not walk alone!*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Vivace, from Sonata for 2 Flutes, #1
Jean Baptiste Loeillet de Gant (1688-1720)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant & Liturgist

Officiant: The tomb is dark, but empty

Liturgist: The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness

Officiant: The stone has been rolled away

Liturgist: The one you are looking for has overcome death

Officiant: The burial clothes are put aside

Liturgist: The one you are looking for is alive!

Officiant: Christ is Risen!

Liturgist: Christ is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Officiant: Let us worship God, together, this Easter day!

Liturgist: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Indeed! Hallelujah!

The Return of the Christ Candle for Easter

MUSICAL MEDITATION In the Garden/What A Friend
Tunes: GARDEN, CONVERSE/ Arr. Brant Adams

PASTOR'S PRAYER

INVOCATION

Officiant & Liturgist

Psalm 118: 14 – 24 A Song of Victory New Revised Standard Version

Officiant: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever!

Liturgist: Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Officiant: The Lord is my strength and my might;
God has become my salvation.

**Liturgist: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”**

Officiant: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

**Liturgist: The Lord has punished me severely, but God did not give me over
to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may
enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

Officiant: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my
salvation.

**Liturgist: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief
cornerstone.**

Officiant: This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**Liturgist: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Officiant: In your Gracious name, we pray. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Tune: EASTER HYMN / Charles Wesley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Officiant

...time for silent prayer...

WORDS of ASSURANCE Officiant

Acts 10: 34 – 43 New Revised Standard Version Officiant

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by

hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

John 20:1-18 New Revised Standard Version

Liturgist

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Mark 16:1-8 New Revised Standard Version

Officiant

The Resurrection of Jesus

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the

first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE The Day of Resurrection
Tune: LANCASHIRE / John of Damascus (8th century)

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: Marcia Baker, Janet House, Becky and Dave Walker, Carol Ellinwood Judy Wicken and her family on the loss of her father John Sheeler, Patrick Egan, Sam Meehan's Mom and her husband Nicole & LeRoy Hileman, Erin Smith, Tony McNaughton, Scott and Janet Wilson and Janet's father John Owens, Marcia Baker's niece, Kris Nozal, Dave Walker's brother, Peter Walker, Sandy Reynolds' family member Rick Lewis, Haelyn Vorous, the Daileys' son Rob, and our Members in Discernment Becky Walker and Scott Hatfield.

Our law enforcement personnel, medical personnel and first responders, and our military personnel worldwide, and all those who serve our country. We pray for safety and comfort for all those who are stuck and struggling in bad weather patterns especially those in North Carolina.

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

Invitation

Liturgist

**On this Easter morning....after Lent and Holy Week....
We know it takes faith to wait without hope,
to trust that although there is no sense to what has happened,
we must do it anyway.
At the limits of our capacity to make sense of the world
at the edges of our grace, energy and love ~ is this:
bread and wine.
Take and eat.
If nothing else, it will keep you alive.**

Telling of the Story

Officiant

Pastor's Prayer at the Table

Sharing of the Elements

Thanksgiving after Sharing Communion

Officiant

Dismissal:

Liturgist

**Hear the voice of the Creator, the mighty God,
the One who built the vault of heaven,
who set the sun on its blazing course
through the skies!
Hear the words of life, our Easter message ~
declared not by speech or language or voice
but written on the heart!
Go forth in the name of the living Word,
the One whose words bring forth
the fruit of the kingdom in your own lives!**

CLOSING HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
Tune: LLANFAIR

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb
Victor C. Johnson

We would like to send a special thanks to Don Miller our Liturgist and Dave Walker for setting up the PowerPoint presentation and Zoom live stream that allows us to all worship together. Additional thanks and our compliments to Kelsey Meehan, Sam Meehan and Erin Smith for leading today's songs, a flute duet by Kelsey and Sue and a trombone solo by Sam.

Deacon of the Month:

Claire Chase

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