

Rangeley Congregational Church

Order of Worship – May 2, 2021

Communion Sunday

A 21st century rephrase of similar thoughts from K. Kent & Mother Teresa ~
*“...in the final analysis it is between you and God.
It was never just between you and them anyway.”*

Colossians 3:23-24 -

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though
you were working for the Lord and not for people.”*

Yusuf – lyrics from *The Wind*

*“ I listen to the wind to the wind of my soul....
Where it takes me only God really knows.... ”*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Traumerei (Reverie)
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant & Liturgist

Officiant: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

Liturgist: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

Officiant: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**Liturgist: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive,
productive.**

Officiant: If we abide in Christ, then Christ’s words will abide in us.

Liturgist: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples

Officiant: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

Liturgist: *May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.*

INVOCATION

Officiant

OPENING HYMN: All Are Welcome, Verses 1,2 & 5
Marty Haugen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Officiant

...time for silent prayer...

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8: 26 – 40 New Revised Standard Version**Liturgist**

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south²⁷ to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁷He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip³⁸ baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

1 John 4: 7 – 21 New Revised Standard Version**Officiant**

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the

Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love¹⁹ because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,²⁰ are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister²⁰ whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters²¹ also.

John 15:1-18

New Revised Standard Version

Liturgist

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes² to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed³ by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become⁸ my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants¹⁵ any longer, because the servant¹⁵ does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.¹⁸"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you.

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
Tune: BRIDEGROOM/Carl P. Daw

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, Paula Hatfield's sister and her family on the death of their son, Thomas Yoder, Fred and Mary's son Steven Dubay, Janet House, Becky and Dave Walker, Carol Ellinwood, 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, 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 the people around us this day for those who are upon our hearts and minds because of a need that they have...

PASTORAL PRAYER

A TIME OF SILENCE

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

Pastor's Prayer at the Table

Sharing the Elements

Thanksgiving after Sharing

CLOSING HYMN: There's a Spirit in the Air, Verses 1,2,5,6,7
Tune: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS/Brian Wren

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,**

**declared not by speech or language or voice
but written on our hearts!
Let us go forth in the name of the living Word,
the One whose words bring forth
the fruit of the kingdom in your own lives! Amen.**

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Officiant

POSTLUDE: This Little Light of Mine
Harry Dixon Loes / Arr. Mark Hayes

Special thanks to Linda Wendelken for being our Liturgist, Sam Meehan for leading the singing and playing the trombone, Dave Walker for the PowerPoint slideshow presentation and for setting up the Zoom live stream so we can worship together.

Deacon of the Month:

Kelsey Meehan

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