

Rangeley Congregational Church

Order of Worship – May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*He didn't realize that love as powerful as your mother's for you leaves its own mark."
--J.K. Rowling*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Ave Maria
JS Bach & Charles Gounod / Arr. Liebergen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today, we are giving thanks to God for the gift of mothers and the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives.

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms:

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...." (Isa. 66:13)

Liturgist: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Leader: Isaiah also wrote that God would never forget us. He knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

*"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"
(Isa. 49:15)*

Liturgist: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Leader: Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us, like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." (Matt. 23:37)

Liturgist: **Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.**

Leader: Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who looks after those in her care:

"...but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children." (1 Thess. 2:7)

Liturgist: Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN: O God, Whose Steadfast Love
Tune: RHOSYMEDRE/ James L. Haddix

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Unwavering God, we keep asking what is it that you most want us to do with our lives in hope you might tell us something easier. Instead, you offer the same answer every time: Love one another as I have loved you.

Liturgist: We confess that our love for others is not always what we hope it would be.

Leader: We are quick to judge and slow to offer grace.

Liturgist: We are swift to anger and resistant to make amends.

Leader: We are prone to suspicion and resistant to build trust.

Liturgist: We hear the greatest commandment, and if we are honest, we are filled with hesitation because it means we must change. Unwavering God, in these moments of stillness, hear our struggles with the love you call us to practice...

Silence...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE

1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love
Ghanaian Folk Song/ Tom Colvin

PASTORAL PRAYER

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...

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.

CLOSING HYMN: The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young
Tune: CRIMOND/R. Deane Postlethwaite

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Momisms (The Mom Song)
Rossini/ Anita Renfroe

Special thanks to Kathy Brittain for being our Liturgist, Kelsey Meehan for leading the singing and playing her flute, Dave Walker for the PowerPoint slideshow presentation and Sam Meehan setting up the Zoom live stream so we can worship together.

Deacon of the Month: **Kelsey Meehan** **(320) 266-2904**

Acknowledgements:
Call to Worship from “Barnabas in Churches”
Benediction from Jann Aldredge-Clanton
Portions adapted from Worship Ways