

Rangeley Congregational Church

Musical Service – May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Do you wish to find out the really sublime? Repeat the Lord's Prayer. – Napoleon Bonaparte

The Lord's Prayer contains the sum total of religion and morals. – Arthur Wellesley

The Lord's Prayer may be committed to memory quickly, but it is slowly learnt by heart.
– Frederick Denison Maurice

I use to think the Lord's Prayer was a short prayer; but as I live longer, and see more of life, I begin to believe there is no such thing as getting through it. If a man, in praying that prayer, were to be stopped by every word until he had thoroughly prayed it, it would take him a lifetime. – Henry Ward Beecher.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: The Lord's Prayer from Setting V in Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Liturgist reads all)

**We come and seek the ways of wisdom.
We come as one Body in Christ.
We come to find peace and sing songs of love.
We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.
Come, let us worship.**

INVOCATION

Special Reader 1 Kit Caspar

Life-giving God, your love and light guides us on the path of courage, compassion, generosity, and grace.
Lead us we seek to follow your transformative love that turns sorrow into joy, and despair into hope.
O God, help us embrace your guiding love that calls us to live as your faithful witnesses, who reflect your grace and redemptive love.
God, open hearts to receive your gracious love, and strengthen us to carry the Good News of your healing power found in the light, love and life of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Liturgist reads all)

Gracious God, we confess our doubts that stifle our joy. Forgive us when we lack faith in you and comfort us when our fears outweigh our praise. God, forgive us when we fail to trust you, and help us when we do not live as your faithful witnesses. Guiding God forgive us when we are self-consumed and lack the time needed to serve our neighbors. In these times, have mercy on us, O God, and encourage us to be your love-lived, by renewing us daily in your strength. We pray, Amen.

...time for silent prayer...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Special Reader 1 Fred Dubay

O God, hear our prayers of confession and forgiveness, and guide us from disbelief and distress by leading us into your hope-filled joy. God, we need your loving Spirit to be among us, to comfort us in our doubt, and to strengthen us in our faith. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 34: 1-8

I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth. I will glory in the Lord; let the lowly hear and rejoice. Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt God's name together. I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors. Look upon the Lord and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed. I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord and delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!

Mathew 6: 5-8 & 14-15

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Cantata: Our Father A Journey through the Lord's Prayer by Pepper Choplin

Cantata: We are not Alone

Liturgist: We are never alone, for God is with us, now and forever. Our Father, in heaven, we gather here as Your children. You created each one of us, so we are surrounded by brothers and sisters. Now, we join as the human family to lift the prayer that You have taught us. Come and hear Your children as we call out to You.

Cantata: Our Father in Heaven

Special Reader 1 Kit Caspar

God of all, You are our Creator, our Healer and Protector, *Hallowed* is Your name. *Holy* is Your name. Here, in these moments, help us experience Your name's power as Your holiness comes down to fill this place.

Cantata: Holy be Thy Name

Special Reader 2 Fred Dubay

Your name is holy. Your ways are perfect. Your kingdom is full of justice, love and peace. But this world is *not* perfect. Though love and peace may live on this earth, there is much pain and suffering here; there is cruelty and injustice. Listen as Your children call out to You, "Let Your kingdom come and rule over our world. Let Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

Cantata: Let Your Kingdom Come

Liturgist: Give this day, our daily bread. The day we are living is a gift from You. Our breath, our health, our food is all supplied by You. Teach us to live in continuous gratitude as we treasure each moment and cherish the precious gift of life.

Cantata: Give Us This Day

Special Reader 1 Kit Caspar

Help us embrace each day as a precious gift. Sometimes, it is our *yesterdays* that we hold more tightly. The sins and mistakes of our *past* may steal away the blessings of the *present*. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. We know that when we confess to You our sins, Your grace is full and complete. Still, we struggle to forgive those who have hurt us. And as we hold on to the memories of our own mistakes, we struggle to forgive *ourselves*. So as You forgive... show us the power to forgive those who have caused us pain. As You forgive... help us as we try to forgive... *ourselves*.

Cantata: Forgive Us (Help us Forgive Ourselves)

Special Reader 2 Fred Dubay

As we embrace forgiveness and release our pain, lead us not into temptation. Show us a path that is *far* from the things that tempt us: things that are destructive, that are addictive, that tear us down and destroy our relationships. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Cantata: Lead us Not into Temptation

Cantata: We are Not Alone (Reprise)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Liturgist reads all)

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, 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...

Liturgist: Forever and ever, we are never alone. So as we walk continuously in Your presence, let us embody the prayer that you taught us to pray.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

(Liturgist reads all)

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.

Cantata: Thine is the Kingdom

DISMISSAL

As you go, remember that the Spirit whispers in your ear all the day long. She whispers her message of love and liberation; she beckons for you to follow her into paths as yet unimagined.

Go from this place into the new moments of the day. Greet each new experience as sacred. Welcome the possibility of each second, each hour, with a deep sense of thankfulness. And the blessing of God will surely pour down upon you, wildly, extravagantly, generously.

BENEDICTION

Special Reader 1 Kit Caspar

Let us go forth in the world, giving thanks that we have come. Let us go forth renewed in spirit, knowing that we belong to God. And, let us go forth as witnesses, carrying the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE: The Lord's Prayer
Albert Malotte / Arr. Janice Faber

Special thanks to Les Hoekstra for being our Liturgist, Fred Dubay and Kit Caspar for being our special readers, Erin Perkins Smith, Sue Downes-Borko, and Sam and Kelsey Meehan for leading 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: Kelsey Meehan (320) 266-2904

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