

# Rangeley Congregational Church

Order of Worship – Sunday, May 23, 2021

## Pentecost Sunday

Habakkuk 2: 4 ~

*“You cannot have a dream and expect someone else’s faith to make it a reality for you.”*

N. T. Wright, from *The Challenge of Easter* ~

*“Do not despise the small but significant symbolic act.*

*....Learn to be symbol-makers and story-tellers for the kingdom of God.”*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Sonata on “Ebenezer” (*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*)

Quoting “Moonlight Sonata” by Beethoven

Tune: EBENEZER / Arr. Robert Thygerson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant & Liturgist

**Liturgist:** God is inviting us to wake from our slumbers.  
There is much to be done for God today.  
Just for today.

**Officiant:** God encourages us to proclaim God’s goodness and love.  
There are so many people who are lost and hurt,  
who need the good news of God.

**Liturgist:** God inspires us to be bold in our proclamation,  
unafraid, confident.  
Lord God, be with us as we step boldly out  
to share your Good News.

**Officiant:** Come, Holy Spirit! Ignite our hearts with joy and confidence!  
For God has done wondrous things for us.

**Liturgist:** Come, Holy Spirit!  
Fill us with the power of the rushing wind  
that we may faithfully serve you in all that we do.

**Officiant:** For Christ has called each of us and blessed us!  
Come, Holy Spirit! Be with us today.

**Liturgist:** Help us to boldly proclaim Christ Risen. Amen.

INVOCATION

Liturgist

God of wind and fire, embolden us this day to receive your power.  
Help us to proclaim the wondrous things that you have done and continue to do  
in our lives. Give us strength and courage to share the Good News of your love  
and your presence. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: On Pentecost They Gathered  
Tune: MUNICH/ Words: Jane Parker Huber

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

Lord God, you know us too well.  
You know that we would be like the disciples following the crucifixion  
and even the resurrection.  
We would rather hide and mutter and weep, than proclaim the power of  
your love. The world is a difficult place. We fear so much.  
We want people to like us; we hold back on our proclamation of our faith.  
We don't want to offend anyone. But hear us now!  
Your love and presence are not offensive. They are empowering and  
healing.  
Bring your holy fire upon us this day to ignite a spark of joy in our hearts  
and our voices.  
Bring the power of your rushing wind through our spirits that we may be  
turned in new directions for service and witness.  
We pray this in Jesus' Name.

PASTOR'S PRAYER

Officiant

*...time for silent prayer...*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Officiant

SCRIPTURE

**Acts 2:1-21**

**Liturgist**

2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2:2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,  
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each  
of them.

2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other  
languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in  
Jerusalem.

2:6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

2:7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?"

2:8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

2:9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

2:11 Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

2:12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

2:13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

2:15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

2:16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

2:17 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

2:18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

2:19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

2:20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

2:21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Officiant**

37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

37:2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

37:3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

37:6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

37:7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

37:8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

37:10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

37:11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'

37:12 Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

37:14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

**Romans 8:24-27**

**Liturgist**

8:24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

8:27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15**

**Officiant**

15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.

15:27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

16:4b "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

16:5 But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

16:6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

16:8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

16:9 about sin, because they do not believe in me;

16:10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;

16:11 about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

16:12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

16:14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

16:15 All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

**SERMON**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us  
Tune: EBENEZER/ Words: Janie Alford

### 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: Laurie Bergmann on the loss of her Mother Ruth Bergmann, Emma Flaum, Mary Ellen Simon's Niece, 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 all of our military personnel worldwide, and 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

As we remember all those who have just been named, and remember all those whose troubles and concerns weigh heavily on our own hearts and who we have not named publicly, this day, .....let us pray the prayer for our Pentecost, right here, right now.... Praying the prayer for ALL of us to be bearers of God's Holy Spirit, to ALL of God's people, no matter where they are on the highways and byways of daily life! So now... pray with Lucy and with me....responsively...

Officiant: From the very instant of creation,  
your Holy Spirit moved on the waters of creation,  
bringing to life the creative love that is God.

**Liturgist: Even when the people were forgetful and stubborn,  
your Holy Spirit called to them to be unafraid, to follow.  
It led them through the desert to a land of sweet dwelling.**

Officiant: During all the times of fear and tumult,  
you sang the song of hope through the prophets,  
who called people back to you with tender forgiveness.

**Liturgist: On a dark winter night you sang your sweetest song  
and birthed a Savior who came to bring us life  
and witness to your love and power.**

Officiant: At the lakeshore you called to the simple people,  
the fishermen, to come and follow you.  
They witnessed your miracles of healing and forgiving love.

**Liturgist:** When the night seemed to be the darkest,  
even though it was mid-day - you gave your Son  
to be a witness to your love.  
From his cross He forgave those who crucified Him  
and reminded a thief that paradise would be his home.

**Officiant:** In the early morning,  
the women were startled with the news of His resurrection.  
Could it be that all he had said was true?

**Liturgist:** The disciples hid in fear of what others might say, think or do.  
They were astonished at his presence to them.

**Officiant:** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, help us to dream dreams  
and see visions of all that is possible  
for the healing and hope for this world.

**Liturgist:** Help us cross lines which divide.  
Help us to unite to proclaim boldly:  
you are the Spirit of Absolute Love and Peace.  
Emblazon our spirits. Make bold our voices.  
Give joy to our hearts, for we are called to be witnesses,  
even to the ends of the world. Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER (using the words you pray in silent 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: Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing  
Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS / Words: John Fawcett

**DISMISSAL**

**Liturgist**

*Pentecost by poet John Birch*

*When was the last time  
that we heard the wind of your Spirit  
roar through this place?  
When was the last time  
your fire lit up this room?  
When was the last time  
we took you at your word  
and met together in expectation  
of your Spirit filling this place,  
and these lives with your Glory and Power?  
Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost.  
Do we believe that this*

*was a once in eternity experience,  
never to be repeated?  
That the Holy Spirit was poured out  
on your followers for a single purpose,  
and ended His work at that instant?  
If so, then maybe that is why the Church  
seems so powerless in this age,  
helpless when faced with the needs  
both spiritual and physical,  
that we see in the world.  
Lord, as we meet together,  
and celebrate once again  
the memory of that first Pentecost,  
may it be for us as it was then  
a moment of empowerment,  
an awareness of your Glory in this dark world,  
a life-changing experience.*

BENEDICTION

Officiant

POSTLUDE: Blessed Assurance  
Fanny Crosby & Phoebe Palmer Knapp/ Arr. Patti Drennan

Special thanks to Lucy Simonds for being our Liturgist, Kit Caspar for leading the singing, Dave Walker for the PowerPoint slideshow presentation and Sam Meehan for setting up the Zoom live stream so we can worship together.

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