

# Rangeley Congregational Church

Order of Worship – Sunday, May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday on Memorial Day Weekend

C. S. Lewis ~

*“You can’t go back and change the beginning ...  
but you can start where you are and change the ending.”*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: To Thee, Great One in Three  
Tune: ITALIAN HYMN / Arr. Richard Blake

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant & Liturgist

Officiant: A gift of a new day, unlive, untried, ready to be opened.  
Liturgist: **A new day with surprising miracles; with love to be given,**  
Officiant: Kindness to be shared and peace to be enjoyed.  
Liturgist: **A gift of a new day, God’s gift to us.**  
**Let us receive it and live it in expectation.**

INVOCATION

Liturgist

Again, we gather.  
Again, we sing.  
Again, we read, and hear and pray.  
We do these things again and again because we believe God is in them.  
We believe God desires our worship.  
We believe God wants to speak to us.  
So, as we come together again, let us do so with great expectation.  
Let us lay aside what we think we know and open ourselves up to the  
miraculous.  
Let us worship God who loves us. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: Holy, Holy, Holy  
Tune: NICAEA, Words: Reginald Heber

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

**Holy Spirit of God, invisible like the wind,  
we do not see you moving among us,  
but the effect we see—**

**comes to our hearts:  
that we may be renewed and reborn.**

**Open our minds:  
that we may perceive your kingdom.**

**Lift our eyes to the cross of Christ  
help us look to our healing:  
that we may believe,  
and in believing - not die but - live into eternal life;  
through him, who,  
in your love for us,  
you sent into the world.  
Let us pray in the name of Jesus, your beloved son. Amen.**

PASTOR'S PRAYER

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

WORDS OF ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Officiant

SCRIPTURE

**Isaiah 6:1-8**

Liturgist

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of God's glory."

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

**Romans 8:12-14**

Liturgist

... brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted

up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

## **SERMON**

Offerings of Names In Memoriam

SPECIAL MUSIC: Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones  
From the Musical *There is Freedom Here* / Arr. Russell Mauldin

HYMN OF RESPONSE: Bring Many Names  
Tune: WESTCHASE, Words: Brian Wren

## **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: The family of Ruth Bergmann on the loss of their mother, Erin Smith’s parents Carol and Dan Perkins, Russell House and family, Emma Flaum, Mary Ellen Simon’s Niece, 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, Scott and Janet Wilson and Janet’s father John Owens, 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**

Officiant: Let us pray the prayer that we might ALL serve as 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 ( ) and with me...responsively...

**Liturgist: Lord God of hosts, you are always asking, "Whom shall I send?" Give each of us the courage of Isaiah to respond, "Here am I, send me."**

Officiant: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:  
The whole earth is full of your glory.

**Liturgist: You are beyond beauty, Lord God, you are holy; your voice is all powerful. Give strength to your people, and give your blessings of peace.**

Officiant: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:  
The whole earth is full of your glory.

**Liturgist: Spirit of God, when we are fearful ~ you ask us, "Why? Are you not my adopted ones?"**

Officiant: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:  
The whole earth is full of your glory.

**Liturgist: Lord Jesus Christ, you speak to us of heavenly things, even when we are most interested in earthly things. Speak to us in the night-times of our lives, that we may learn the way and the will of your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:  
The whole earth is full of your glory.

**Liturgist: The problems of the nations, the politics of parties, the threats and fears of peoples everywhere are all known to you, Almighty and Holy One, save us from fear, greed, revenge, and all evil things that keep us away from love, and from all whom you love ~ all your precious people across the globe, no matter where they are, no matter what their belief.**

Officiant: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:  
The whole earth is full of your glory.

**Liturgist: The dying, the sick, the lonely and the forsaken are your special people, for you know the names of each one, even as we have called upon you this day, once again, to remember them .**

Officiant: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:  
The whole earth is full of your glory.  
Come Holy Spirit, come with your life-giving care and joy. **Amen.**

So now, in faith, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught his good friends, his disciples, praying in the words that flow off your lips naturally when you are in silent prayer:

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: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies  
Tune: MATERNA, Words: Katherine Lee Bates and Miriam  
Therese Winter

**DISMISSAL**

**Liturgist**

**The Journey** by Mary Oliver

*One day you finally knew  
what you had to do, and  
began  
though the voices around you  
kept shouting  
their bad advice –  
though the whole house  
began to tremble  
and you felt the old tug  
at your ankles.  
“Mend my life!”  
each voice cried.  
But you didn’t stop.  
You knew what you had to do,  
though the wind pried  
with its stiff fingers  
at the very foundations,  
though their melancholy  
was terrible.  
It was already late  
enough, and a wild night,  
and the road full of fallen  
branches and stones.  
But little by little*

*as you left their voice behind  
the stars began to burn  
through the sheets of clouds,  
and there was a new voice  
which you slowly  
recognized as your own,  
that kept you company  
as you strode deeper and  
deeper  
into the world,  
determined to do  
the only thing you could do –  
determined to save  
the only life you could  
save.*

BENEDICTION

Officiant

POSTLUDE: Battle Hymn of the Republic

Tune: Traditional American, Words: Julia Ward Howe, Arr. Mark Hayes

Special thanks to Linda Caspar for being our Liturgist, Erin Smith, Kelsey and Sam Meehan will be leading the singing, Dave Walker for the PowerPoint slideshow presentation and Dan Simonds for setting up the Zoom live stream so we can worship together.

Deacon of the Month:

Kelsey Meehan

(320) 266-2904