

Rangeley Congregational Church

Order of Worship – June 6, 2021

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Maya Angelou ~ 20th century

In all the world there is no heart for me like yours.

In all the world there is no love for you like mine.

Unknown ~

**“The first to apologize is the bravest; the first to forgive is the strongest;
the first to forget is the happiest.**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: From the Apple in the Garden

Music: Colin Gibson, Text: Shirley Erena Murray

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

As we gather, let us look to the rulers of this earth
for leadership, wisdom, and strength.

We look to these bodies of ours
for stability, fulfillment, and joy.

We look to families and friends
for love, compassion, and hope.

When rulers betray, when bodies fail,
and when families disappoint,
God offers another look.

God will guide us.

God’s Spirit will sustain us.

Christ will welcome us home.

Come, my sisters and brothers,
we are all a part of God’s family.

PASTOR’S PRAYER

INVOCATION

Liturgist

Faithful God,
we come into your presence with thanksgiving,
deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness
You have shown your love toward us, your people.
When we call out to you, you answer.

When we are exhausted, you give us the strength to go on.
When we find ourselves in trouble,
You are there, standing beside us.

And so we come before you with gratitude and praise,
offering You the worship of our hearts and lives.
Open our eyes to see and know your presence here among us;
open our ears to recognize your voice.
And then send us out from here,
to live and work in the world as your faithful disciples.

PASTOR'S PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: In Christ There Is No East or West
Tune: ST. PETER, Words: Oxenham, Stookey

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liturgist

Holy and Gracious God, you call us like a good parent to guide and protect us, to nourish and lead us.

Brother Jesus, you call us like a caring elder brother to serve us and help us, to cheer us and invite us.

Healing Spirit, you call us ... nudging us ever closer into fellowship with you and each other.

Yet like unruly children we strain at your guidance, we try to break away and do it ourselves. We feel our strength and imagine ourselves to be all powerful. We rejoice in our life and imagine ourselves to be immortal. We know our talents and want to be independent rather than depend on you. Before we know it we are in the grip of other powers, leading us away from your loving ways into the slavery of selfish greed, adoring false gods of youthfulness, materialism and power.

Holy Lord, forgive us and free us.

Open our eyes how your wisdom knows true leadership to be service.

Open our hearts that we may learn that neither race or tribe, culture or religion are barriers to separate us but that we are all one family in your love.

Open our hearts and minds to learn yet again to live your love as we celebrate and worship you here together.

PASTOR'S PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 8: 4 – 20, 11: 14 – 15

New Revised Standard Version

Liturgist

8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

8:5 and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations."

8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the LORD,

8:7 and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

8:8 Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you.

8:9 Now then, listen to their voice; only--you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

8:10 So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king.

8:11 He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;

8:12 and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

8:13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

8:14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers.

8:15 He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.

8:16 He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work.

8:17 He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.

8:18 And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

8:19 But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said "No! but we are determined to have a king over us,

8:20 so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles."

11:14 Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship."

11:15 So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

Psalm 138

Liturgist

New Revised Standard Version

138:1 I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

138:2 I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

138:3 On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

138:4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

138:5 They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

138:6 For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

138:7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

138:8 The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Mark 3:20-35

Officiant

New Revised Standard Version

3:20 ... and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

3:21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."

3:22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

3:23 And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?"

3:24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

3:25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.

3:26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.

3:27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

3:28 "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter;

3:29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"--

3:30 for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

3:31 Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.

3:32 A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you."

3:33 And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"

3:34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!"

3:35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE: Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Thomas A. Dorsey

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, Fred and Mary’s son Steven Dubay, Susan Tourtillotte’s daughter, Katie Joca, George Adams and his family on the loss of his wife, Shirley, 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

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.

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer over the Elements

Communion and Distribution

Thanksgiving

CLOSING HYMN: Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?
Richard Gillard

DISMISSAL

Liturgist

**Wait for the LORD, We wait with deep longing;
and in God’s word we stand, waiting in hope, offering love.**

Hope in God!
**For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with the Lord is great power to save.**

BENEDICTION

Officiant

POSTLUDE: Wabash Blues
Fred Meinken (1921)

* * * * *

Call to Worship: adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*, © 2011
Abingdon Press.

Invocation: prayer by Christine Longhurst

Liturgist's Prayer of Confession: — written by Rev. Andrea Price, and posted on
the Church of Scotland's **Starters for Sunday** website.

Special thanks to Mille Hoekstra for being our Liturgist, Les Hoekstra 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: Lucy Simonds (207) 864-5851