

Rangeley Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Church  
*Consecration Sunday*

June 13, 2021

10:00 AM

*Meditation:*

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Laura W. Watts, Heart Renovation ~

*"A faithful steward loves God first."*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE First Arabesque

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist & Officiant

O: Called to be branches in Christ's body,

**L: we yearn to be connected to the vine.**

O: Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,

**L: we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.**

O: Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,

**L: we seek God's nurturing presence.**

INVOCATION

Liturgist & All

Liturgist:

Holy One:

you anoint us with living water,  
so we may go to serve the world  
in these troubled days.

You open our eyes  
so we will see everyone  
as our sisters and brothers.

Liturgist:

Seed Planter:

you place faith  
deep within us,  
so we can bear witness  
to your just and loving kingdom.

Your love regulates our hearts,  
so we can welcome all  
in your name.

All:

**Gentle Spirit:**

**when we cannot see the way,  
you take us by the hand  
so we can step forward,  
in faith,  
into the kingdom.**

**You fill us with hope,  
so we can sing God's joy  
all of our days.**

**God in Community, Holy in One,  
hear us as we pray.**

\*OPENING HYMN God, We Love This Congregation!  
Tune: Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven/Text: Carolyn  
Winfrey Gillette.

God, we love this congregation!  
On this day, we're glad to see  
friends and neighbors, gathered, praying,  
as a church community.  
Young and old, we join in worship —  
some in-person, some online.  
We are drawn by faith and friendship  
to this blessed place and time.

In this year with all its trials,  
there are things that we have missed.  
Still, in Christ, you've walked beside us;  
by your Spirit, we've been blessed.  
Love's our history, love's our vision,  
Love's the work we're called to do.  
Bless us as our congregation  
moves together, serving you.

CALL TO CONFESSION Officiant

PRAYER TO CONFESSION Officiant

PRAYER OF CONFESSION All

**Loving God, whatever you see  
as self-righteous, censure,  
as twisted, straighten,  
as heartless, soften,  
as fruitless, prune,  
as infected, cleanse.**

**Flood your relentless Spirit through our whole being,  
sweeping away guilt and its lethargy,  
and by the saving grace of Christ Jesus,  
heal the hidden springs of our personality.**

**Thank you, Holy Friend, for answering our prayers  
before we get around to asking them,  
and for doing much more than we ask or think.  
Through your Son, in whose name we pray.  
Amen**

**PASTOR'S PRAYER**

.....TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION.....

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE OF LOVE**                      **Officiant**

**SCRIPTURE ~**

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**    **Liturgist**

17:22 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

17:23 On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

17:24 All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

**Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

**Liturgist & All**

92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

**92:2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,**

92:3 to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

**92:4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

92:12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**92:13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

92:14 In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

**92:15 showing that the LORD is upright; the Lord is my rock, there is no unrighteousness in the Lord.**

**Mark 4:26-34**

**Officiant**

4:26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,

4:27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

4:28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

4:29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

4:30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

4:31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;

4:32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that

the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

4:33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it;

4:34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

## SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE Take My Life and Let It Be

Tune: VIENNA/Text: Frances R. Havergal

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.

Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.

Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.

Take me now, and help me be part of Christ community.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Officiant & Liturgist

*(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:** Erin Smith's parents Carol and Dan Perkins, Russell House and family, Emma Flaum, Susan Tourtillotte's

*daughter, Katie Joca, 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 Dailey's son Rob and our Members in Discernment Becky Walker and Scott Hatfield.*

*Our law enforcement personnel, first responders and the communities they serve; our military personnel worldwide; and all those who serve our country. And we hold in prayer those friends and members of our church family who are unable to join us in worship today. 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 ("forgive us our sins")

**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 as we forgive those who sin 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.**

CHORAL AMEN #812

"Threefold Amen"

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## CONSECRATION PRAYERS

### Blessing our Parish Church

All

O God, our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, bless our parish, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give generously of our time, talent and treasure to spread Your kingdom here in our church and throughout the world. For this, we pray to the Lord. *Amen*

### \*Blessing the Leaders of our Church

Liturgist

Heavenly, Holy Creator of all we enjoy, we give you thanks for the countless people who have gone before us in the leadership of this church. We know that the Holy Spirit inspired some as they longed for this church, others as they built this church and still others as they lovingly and boldly led this church through times of abundance and times of scarcity. Help us to be bold as we model giving of time and money to this parish. Make our bold and generous pledges symbols of both our integrity and our gratitude. Help us to encourage giving in all we do and say, just as you did while living and teaching among your disciples. *Amen.*

### \*Blessing the Leaders of our Stewardship Ministries

Committee Members

Lord Christ, you held your ground as you communicated a message amidst support and amidst the rejection of your message. Give to us who lead stewardship ministries the strength to help our church to discuss what some would rather ignore. Help us to speak openly about money, time and land as gifts. Help us to respond to a culture that views stewardship as simply fundraising. Stewardship is a pastoral ministry to all, and to those who come after us who look to

be reassured that God's abundance is in all our hands~  
indeed, all we cherish and hold dear. *Amen.*

\*Blessing our Intentions

All

Lord, Giver of Life and Source of Freedom. We know that  
all we have is received from your hand. Gracious and loving  
God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the  
caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to  
use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.  
Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing your  
message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship be  
a witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray  
with grateful hearts in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
*Amen.*

\*Blessing our Conviction

Officiant

\*CLOSING HYMN Blessed Be the Tie That Binds  
Tune: DENNIS/Text: John Fawcett

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our  
cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

DISMISSAL:

Liturgist

The Legacy, by Daniel Extrom

My family loved me very much ,  
and taught me well to share,  
And I am able yet to give,  
though I am not there,

Mourn me not my family;  
my spirits still in you,  
The lesson that you taught so well  
gives work I love to do  
I hope that you find comfort in my memory  
The work I do helps someone to live –  
My greatest legacy.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

**~Special Thanks to all who helped with the service today:**

**Cyndy Egan, Liturgist**

**Cyndy Egan & Millie Hoekstra, Stewardship Committee**

**Lucy Simonds, Deacon of the Month**

**Rangeley Congregational Church, [www.rangeleyucc.com](http://www.rangeleyucc.com)**

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