

Rangeley Congregation Church, 7/04/21
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Communion Sunday
July 4, 2021 10:00 AM

Meditations:

Confucius

— It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

Milton Berle

— If opportunity does not knock, build a door.

Jimmy Dean

— I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE

“America the Beautiful”

Samuel A. Ward/Arr. Linda Hartman

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist & All

Liturgist: Lift your eyes to God:

All: **in the highest heavens, we see your glory,
Great Creator.**

Liturgist: Reach out your hands to Jesus:

All: **in the compassion of an enemy, we know your
love, O Christ.**

Liturgist: Feel the breathe of the Spirit:

All: **in our sinews and in our souls, the Spirit
whispers hope.**

Liturgist: Let us worship the God who reigns,
by entering the depths of our humanity

All: **and setting the humble soaring on the wings of
the Spirit
for the sake of eternity.**

INVOCATION (responsive) *Liturgist and All*

All: **We thank you, loving God,
for the surprises which you spring on us!**

Liturgist: You take the unlovely and cherish them,
the mediocre and make them gifted, the mere
nobodies and ordain them your apostles.

All: **You entrust us with an authority and ministry
far beyond our own strength. We are reticent.**

Liturgist: Yet under your patient care we discover that all
things are possible to those who love you.

All: **Surprise us again, loving Friend.
Surprise us with the Christ who believes in us**

...

Liturgist: and the grace which is made perfect in
human weakness. Through Jesus Christ, we
pray. **Amen!**

PASTOR'S PRAYER (responsively) Officiant and All

"And many who heard him were astonished." Mark 6: 2

Isn't he the carpenter?
Mary's son?

**Yes,
and God's.**

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God
and the world came
to be through
God,

**but
the world
did not know
the
carpenter.**

Christ,
Fix our hearts.
Shape us into your Body

*GATHERING HYMN #591 (NHC)

"This Is My Song"

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION (Unison) Liturgist and All
**Merciful God, forgive us when we are paralyzed
by confusion and doubt.**

CALL OF CONFESSION

Officiant

Prayer of Confession

Officiant

Words of Assurance

Officiant

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 123

from The Message

Liturgist

1-4: I look to you, heaven-dwelling God, I look up to you for help.

Like servants, alert to their master's commands, like a maiden attending her lady,

We're watching and waiting, holding our breath, awaiting your word of mercy.

Mercy, God, mercy! We've been kicked around long enough, Kicked in the teeth by complacent rich men, kicked when we're down by arrogant brutes.

Ezekiel 2:1-5 New Revised Standard Version

Officiant

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 New Revised Standard Version **Liturgist**

Mark 6:1-13 New Revised Standard Version

Officiant

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE #360 (NCH)

"Send Me, Lord"

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

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, 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

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We pray in the name of Jesus, who invites us to be at peace. Especially as we pray....

OUR LORD'S PRAYER *(please pray the words you use when 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 (debts, sins, trespasses) as we forgive those who (sin, 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 (and ever). AMEN.

PRAYER RESPONSE #236 (NCH)

“Hallelujah”

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

INVITATION FOR THE OFFERING

*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.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: WE GATHER AT THE TABLE TOGETHER

Invitation to the Table

Officiant

Communion Prayers over the Elements

The Great Thanksgiving

All: In the eating of the bread and the drinking of the fruit of the vine, we unite with one another and with God in the holiest of communions ~ this day, after being apart from one another for so long, and unable to share our holy meal together. Guide us to bring justice and mercy and love to share in our every day lives. Praise be to you, O God, that we are all together again for this holy meal! Thanks be to God! AMEN.

Distribution of the Elements

Thanksgiving Prayer

All: God of Jesus, the Christ,

**God of our family gathered here together in Rangeley,
God, of all Creation! More powerful than we can conceive,
bless us, we pray:**

**We have received the bread and the fruit of the vine;
you have graciously renewed our spirits.**

**Go with us as we seek to spread your Spirit in your troubled
world.**

In faith, hope and love, we seek your guidance every day.

**Guide us to work diligently to spread words of your love,
care and blessing,**

to all your people. Yes, all of them.

You have provided us with Bread for the Journey.

And the Cup of Love to sustain us.

**Now, get us up, out, and on the move! However it is you call
us to do so.**

Beckon us with your eternal promises of Love and Hope.

Guide our every step, Holy One!

We go in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS AS WE DEPART

***CLOSING HYMN #592 (NCH)**

“God of the Ages”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

Strike Up the Band

Ira and George Gershwin

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

- + Lucy Simonds, Liturgist**
- + Dave Walker, Powerpoint**
- + Dave Walker, AV Zoomigo**

~This Week:

- + Happy Fourth of July!**
- + Rev. Leslie “walk-in” hours, July 5 & July 6, 9:30-1**
- + Strawberry Festival, Oquossoc, July 8, 10 – 4**
- + Women’s Fellowship, July 9, 10-12, Barn**

~Next Week:

- + Annual Meeting, July 11 after Service, Sanctuary**
- + Rev. Leslie “walk-in” hours, July 12 & July 13, 9:30-1**
- + Finance Committee Meeting, July 12, 3:45, Zoom**
- + Church Council Meeting, July 12, 6:30, Zoom**
- + Organ Celebration Sunday, July 18, Sanctuary**

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