

**Rangeley Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Church  
*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost***

July 11, 2021

10:00 AM

***Meditation:***

*John Wayne, the "DUKE"*

There is Right---and there is Wrong.....You do One, and YOU ARE LIVING.....You do the Other---and You may be walking around---But---YOU are as Dead as a Beaver Hat.

*Lauren Oliver ~*

Most of the time - 99 percent of the time - you just don't know how and why the threads are looped together, and that's okay. Do a good thing and something bad happens. Do a bad thing and something good happens. Do nothing and everything explodes. And very, very rarely - by some miracle of chance and coincidence, butterflies beating their wings just so and all the threads hanging together for a minute - you get the chance to do the right thing.

*Sandra C. Bibb*

Doing the right thing even when no one is looking is easy if I remember that I am not in this life alone and that my task is to please God... not people.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

PRELUDE

"All Things Bright and Beautiful/This Is My Father's World"  
Tunes: ROYAL OAK & DIX/Arr. Penny Rodriguez

CALL TO WORSHIP (Unison)

**Liturgist & All**

~ Based on 2 Samuel 6.

**All: Lord of the dance, creator of whirling winds and shimmering flames, move in us this day. Breathe life into our songs of praise. Set our hearts ablaze to your word. May our worship bring joy to you, Lord. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

INVOCATION (responsive)

Liturgist & All

Psalm 85

from Eugene Peterson's, *The Message*

Liturgist:

God, you smiled on your good earth! You brought good times back to Jacob!

All:

**You lifted the cloud of guilt from your people, you put their sins far out of sight.  
You took back your sin-provoked threats, you cooled your hot, righteous anger.**

Liturgist:

Help us again, God of our help; don't hold a grudge against us forever.

You aren't going to keep this up, are you? scowling and angry, year after year?

Why not help us make a fresh start— a resurrection life?

All:

**Then your people will laugh and sing! Show us how much you love us, God! Give us  
the salvation we need!**

Liturgist:

I can't wait to hear what God will say. God's about to pronounce

God's people well, The holy people God loves so much,

so they'll never again live like fools.

All:

**See how close God's salvation is to those who fear God?**

**Our land is home base for Glory!**

Liturgist:

Love and Truth meet in the street, Right Living and Whole Living embrace and kiss!

Truth sprouts green from the ground, Right Living pours down from the skies!

All:

**Oh yes! God gives Goodness and Beauty; our land responds with Bounty and Blessing.**

**Right Living strides out before God, and clears a path for God's passage.**

CALL TO CONFESSION (Unison)

Liturgist & All

All:

**You know how stubborn we can be, Holy God.**

**You call us to serve others, and yet, we stay n the coolness of our own homes.**

**You would send us to where the hopeless live, but we are reluctant to leave**

**the comfort of our complacency.**

**You would feed us on the peace and joy of your word, but we pull our chairs up to the tables of those who serve false promises.**

PASTOR'S PRAYER

*Silent Prayers may be offered*

\*GATHERING HYMN #43 (NCH)

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, V. 1,2&4”

Tune: BEECHER/Words: Charles Wesley

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19. Liturgist**

- 6:1 David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.
- 6:2 David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim.
- 6:3 They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart
- 6:4 with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.
- 6:5 David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.
- 6:12b So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing;
- 6:13 and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling.

- 6:14 David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod.
- 6:15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.
- 6:16 As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.
- 6:17 They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD.
- 6:18 When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts,
- 6:19 and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their home.

#### **Amos 7:7-15.**

**Officiant**

- 7:7 This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.
- 7:8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;
- 7:9 the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."
- 7:10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words.
- 7:11 For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"
- 7:12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there;

- 7:13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."
- 7:14 Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees,
- 7:15 and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

### **Ephesians 1:3-14.**

**Liturgist**

- 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
- 1:4 just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before God in love.
- 1:5 God destined us for adoption as God's children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of God's will,
- 1:6 to the praise of God's glorious grace that the Lord freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 1:7 In the Lord we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace
- 1:8 that the Lord lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight
- 1:9 God has made known to us the mystery of God's will, according to God's good pleasure that God set forth in Christ,
- 1:10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in God, things in heaven and things on earth.
- 1:11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to God's counsel and will,
- 1:12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of Christ's glory.

- 1:13 In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;
- 1:14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of God's own glory.

### **Mark 6:14-29. Officiant**

- 6:14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."
- 6:15 But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."
- 6:16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."
- 6:17 For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.
- 6:18 For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."
- 6:19 And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not,
- 6:20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.
- 6:21 But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.
- 6:22 When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."
- 6:23 And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

- 6:24 She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."
- 6:25 Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."
- 6:26 The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.
- 6:27 Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,
- 6:28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.
- 6:29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

## SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Seek Ye First (insert)

Karen Lafferty

## 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 (Responsive)

Officiant & All

Response: **You live among us.**

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 #812 (NCH)

Threefold Amen

### PRAYERS AS WE DEPART

\*CLOSING HYMN #556 (NCH) "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"  
Tune: HOLY MANNA/Words: Catherine Cameron

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"The Spirit of Joy"

David Paxton

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

- ✦ Kit Caspar, **Liturgist**
- ✦ Dave Walker, **Powerpoint**
- ✦ Sam Meehan, **AV Zoomigo**

**~This 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

**~Next Week:**

- ✦ Organ Celebration Sunday, July 18, Sanctuary
- ✦ Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal, July 19, Sanctuary
- ✦ Rev. Leslie "walk-in" hours, July 19 & July 20, 9:30-1
- ✦ Women's Fellowship/Prayer Shawl, July 23, 10-12, Barn

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