



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
The Eight Sunday After Pentecost

July 14, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

“Attitudes determine behavior, no matter what the laws are. Laws and rules are human attempts by some to regulate the behavior of others through fear of penalty.”

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COMING INTO GOD’S PRESENCE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE: *“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

Sebastian Temple/Arr. Kate Moody

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist & All

Leader: Blessed are those who seek God with their whole heart. Their eyes are fixed on all that God commands.

People: **We have come to reflect together on God’s**

expectations. It is hard to hear, in other places, what God expects.

Leader: Let's get ready to receive all that God supplies. Be attuned to God's promises and warnings.

People: **We expect to be challenged as well as encouraged. We know that our ways are not God's ways.**

Leader: God gives us choices that result in life or death. We can obey or reject the way of life God intends for us.

All: **We seek to know and follow the way of life.**

INVOCATION (Unison)

Liturgist

Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore You. We come humbly claiming the cross of Jesus, the Christ as our sign. We give thanks that You lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. We come to accept Your invitation. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: #38 (PH)**

"Morning Has Broken"

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God knows the intent of our hearts as we come to this time of repentance and is ready to hear our prayers. Let us therefore come into God's presence confessing our sins.

Let us pray together ...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

We come to You, Gracious God, as people of the flesh whose spirits are under-developed and undisciplined. We make decisions without giving consideration to Your will for us. We pursue desires that divert our attention away from Your call to us. We make gods of our possessions, our work, our hobbies, even our families. We need to experience Your presence and power to bring us to obedience. Make Yourself known to us, we pray.

Time for silent confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God has redeemed many from their bondage.
Shall we not trust that God will save us too?
God vindicates us and offers us prosperity that is not based on worldly standards. God calls us to a new life of justice, kindness, and humility, of meekness, spiritual hunger, and mercy, of pure hearts and peacemaking. We are blessed!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15 – 20
Matthew 5:1-12

Liturgist

SERMON *“Blessed Are . . .”*

Rev. Jack Zappulla

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #180 (NCH)

"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

SERVICE OF PRAYER

PRAYER FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

(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: *Diane VanAmburg, Bill & Mary Richards, Asking for prayers for Ellis, Jeff and Val Zapolsky, Wes McCray, Forrest Stephens, Kris Nozal, Jeff & Carol Ellinwood, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Erin Smith's parents Carol & Dan Perkins, Patrick Egan. The people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza whose lives are engulfed in the violence of war; the victims of the more than 8,000-gun violence deaths in the U.S. so far this year and we pray for all those who guide and lead us in worship.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR LORD'S 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.**

CHORAL AMEN #812 (NCH)

"Threefold Amen"

SERVICE OF GIVING

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

"There I Will Find Comfort

Janet Vogt

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 DEDICATION: (Unison)

With our giving, we express our desire to live into Your expectations for us with wholeness of heart, to delight in Your commandments with all that we have and are, to worship You not only when we are together, but in many difficult places when we are apart. May our church reach out to care for enemies as well as friends. May we remember that we are Your church, Your temple, Your holy ones through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #575 (NCH)

"O For a World"

*THE COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: We go forth as people confronted by the living God. Dare to be reconcilers, recognizing Your own need.

People: God sends us out to mend broken relations.
May we do no wrong, and walk in God's ways.

Leader: Choose life, by loving and obeying God.

People: We will study to know what God expects of us. May we learn and keep God's righteous ordinances. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Für Elise"

Ludwig van Beethoven

~Special thanks to all who contributed their time, talents and gifts for today's service:

- Rev. Jack Zappulla, **Leading Worship Service**
- Bob Silvia, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**

~This Week:

- Handbell Rehearsal, July 15, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Ecumenical Mahjong, July 15, 1 -4pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, July 15, 4pm, East Room & Zoon

~Next Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, Leading Worship Service, July 21
- Handbell Rehearsal, July 22, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mission Meeting, July 24, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women's Fellowship Meets, July 26, 10-12pm, Barn

**ANNUAL MEETING
FOLLOWING TODAY'S SERVICE
In Person and on Zoom**

Pastoral Care Services	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
<u>Church Secretary</u>	rangeleyucc@gmail.com	207-864-5966
<u>Minister of Music:</u>	Sue Downes-Borko	207-864-3951
<u>Council President:</u>	Cyndy Egan	207-864-2255
<u>Co-Chair of</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490
<u>Deacons:</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of the week</u>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073