



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

July 21, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

*"You are who you are meant to be. Dance as if no one's watching.
Love as if it's all you know. Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as
if you'll die today."*

-- James Dean

ORDER OF WORSHIP

COMING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE: *"The Water is Wide"*

British Folk Song (O WALY WALY)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist & All

Leader: Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give
you rest."

People: **Lord, we come to worship you, seeking
sabbath rest.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

People: Lord, we come to worship you, to listen for your teachings and to seek rest for our souls.

Leader: Jesus said, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

People: Lord, we come to worship you, that we might serve you faithfully.

Leader: Give thanks to God; bless God's name!

People: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

INVOCATION (Unison)

Liturgist

Gracious God, make each of us an instrument of your grace. Weave us into a community showing forth your power and tenderness. Bless us and our differences and under gird our courage to stand together. We call on you today to gather us in your love. Lead us to better know you and glorify you on each step of the journey of our lives. In the name of Jesus, let us now keep silence and breathe in the love of God. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: #438 (NCH)

"When Peace Like a River"

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

The scriptures teach that there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The scriptures also teach that we have a high priest who has been tested as we are, yet without sin. As the letter to the Hebrews encourages us, "Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Good and gracious God, we confess that we run ourselves ragged. We are busy and preoccupied with so many things. We neglect to be still and know that you are God. Even our sabbath time can be filled with "busy-ness." Forgive us, Lord, for not accepting your gift and guidance of rest and restoration. Help us to put on the yoke of Jesus and walk in the way he models for us, mindful of our spiritual health and responding with compassion to the needs of our neighbors. Loving God, thank you for Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, who makes us complete in everything good so that we may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight. We pray through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Time for silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Ephesians 2:4-10)

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own

doing; it is the gift of God. Thanks be to God! For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 23

Liturgist

Ephesians 2: 1-22

Mark 13: 1-8

SERMON **“From the Hope of the Prophets to the Promises of God”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #173 (NCH)

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

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: *Wendy Darienzzo, Diane VanAmburg, Bill & Mary Richards, 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 THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings,
that we may supply the needs of the saints, overflow with
thanksgiving to God, glorify God, and share generously
what God has so graciously given to us.

OFFERTORY MUSIC:

"Offertory on "Trentham"

Robert Jackson/Arr. Lani Smith

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)

God of grace and God of glory, we thank you for your generous blessings which enrich our lives. Help us to be good stewards of all you give. May we freely give with generous hearts, even as we have received what you have so freely given us, Jesus Christ, your indescribable gift. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: (Insert)

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”

Tune: BEACH SPRING/Words: Shirley Erena Murray

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Lord of the Dance”

Traditional Shaker Melody/Words: Sydney Carter

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Kathy Brittain, **Liturgist**
- Rick Baker, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

Thank you, Tim Wallace and Derek Wendelken, for today’s special music.

~This 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
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, July 24, 10-11:00am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship Meets, July 26, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Jack Zappulla, Leading Worship, July 28
- Handbell Rehearsal, July 29, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, July 31, 10-11:00am, Barn

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