



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
**The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

July 28, 2024

10:00 AM

***Meditation:***

*“The seed of God’s Word is spread far and wide. It is the soil within which that seed is nurtured that makes a difference.”*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**COMING INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

PRELUDE: *“The Ash Grove”*

Welsh Folk Song

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Liturgist & All**

Leader: The Word of God awaits us here; come to worship.

The Holy Spirit welcomes us, gather to pray.

**People: From the routines and struggles of our lives, we come.**

**Amid the stresses and worries of every day,  
we gather.**

Leader: God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

Let us open ourselves to receive God's Word.

**People: We have committed ourselves to follow the light.**

**We reach out for more than we can see and hear.**

Leader: Come to be renewed in the Spirit of the Christ. God is waiting to offer us a new life of freedom.

**People: In hope, we seek God's caring presence.  
In faith, we dare to trust God's steadfast love.**

INVOCATION (Unison)

Liturgist

Sower of good seed, by Whose word we are equipped for fruitful living, we long to be good soil in which Your truth can take root. May we hear Your word and understand it, not just for ourselves, but for the sake of those who need our faithful witness. Accordingly, renew in us the hope that survives disappointment and the faith that rises above ridicule. Help us to stand for what is right and to champion the cause of those who have no voice or power of their own. Equip us to live as members of Your family, uniting in worship and praise. Embolden us to go forth in the power of Your Word. Empower us as faithful disciples of Jesus, the Risen Christ. Amen

\*GATHERING HYMN: #314 (NCH)

*"Community of Christ"*

## OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We have come seeking deeper roots for our faith and the ability to survive and thrive amid life's thorny pathways. We open all the hidden places of our lives to the light of God's forgiving love, that we might be cleansed, healed, and set free from sin. Let us pray together ...

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**All-knowing God, You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the wonder of life all around us, including the amazing reality of Your Spirit dwelling among us. We want to be like good soil, receiving the seed of Your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for You.**

*Time for silent confession*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: As disciples of Jesus, we have the opportunity to grow in understanding and in the joy of serving others in Christ's name. The Spirit of life sets us free from our narrow concerns to celebrate the good within and around us. Life is transformed by our new attitude of gratitude.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 15

**Liturgist**

Matthew 13:1 - 9, 18 - 23

SERMON *"What Type of Soil?"*

Rev. Jack Zappulla

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #318 (NCH)

*"Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"*

## 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:** *Bill & Mary Richards, Patrick Egan, Wes McCray, Forrest Stephens, Kris Nozal, Jeff & Carol Ellinwood, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Diane VanAmburg, Erin Smith's parents Carol & Dan Perkins. The people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza whose lives are engulfed in the violence of war; the victims of the more than 9,000-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:

*"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"*

Tune: GALILEE/Arr. James Pethel

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)**

**For all who have made life more pleasant for us, we give You thanks, O God. For the abundance of Your steadfast love, which rescues and enlivens us, we are most grateful. We present here practical expressions of thanksgiving, to extend Your purposes in the world. May our giving scatter seeds of love in life-changing ways. May we learn from all we help, that all of us may grow toward discipleship in the spirit of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: #259 (PH)

*"We Limit Not the Truth of God"*

**\*THE COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**Leader:** As carriers of the word, our worship continues.  
God is worshiped through our daily service.

**People:** **May our routines be transformed by new awareness, and our worries be an avenue of true devotion.**

**Leader:** Let us go out from this place, renewed by the Spirit. God has freed us to pursue life at its fullest.

**People:** **We seek to grow in Christlikeness. We aspire to bear fruit in caring service.**

**ALL:** **Amen.**

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"Linus and Lucy"*

Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976)

Thank you to Derek Wendelken and Tim Wallace for today's special music.

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

- Rev. Jack Zappulla, **Leading Worship Service**
- Linda & Derek Wendelken, **Liturgists**
- Joann Bean & Nancy Zambraski, **Deacons of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

**~This 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

**~Next Week:**

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, Leading Worship Service, Aug 4
- Handbell Rehearsal, Aug 5, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Ecumenical Mahjong, Aug 5, 1-4pm, Barn
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Aug 7, 10-11:00am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship Meets, Aug 9, 10-12pm, Barn

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