



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

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

August 4, 2024

10:00 AM

***Meditation:***

*Whenever I allow anything but tenderness and compassion to dictate my response to life -- be it self-righteous anger, moralizing, defensiveness, the pressing need to change others... I am alienated from my true self. My identity as a child of God becomes ambiguous, tentative and confused.*

- Brennan Manning

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader & People**

Leader: Watch what God does: mostly God loves us.

**People:** We would learn a life of such love so we might do as God does.

**Leader:** Watch how Christ loves us: not with caution, but with extravagance.

**People:** We would practice such lavish love, not noticing what it costs us.

**Leader:** Watch how the Spirit loves us: moving in us, breathing love into us.

**People:** We would live such love for others, keeping company with God.

## INVOCATION

\*GATHERING HYMN #498 (NCH)

*"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**Leader:** We say we know you, great God, and what you hope for us... but our words and actions, our silences and failures to care, show that we have so much to discover about our God. Let us gather up our foolish lives and offer them in prayer to the One who longs to forgive us and save us from ourselves.

**People:** If we are to speak truth in these moments, Giver of the Bread of life, we must admit that we are not very gracious folk, with our words or with our actions. It seems better to hold grudges, not to speak grace to those who hurt us. It seems enough to get into arguments

with others, rather than find paths of peace. It seems just to pour out bitterness to those around us to drink, rather than cool cups of love.

Forgive us, Merciful God, so we might live in love, as your children. May the grace which was in Jesus fill us with grace. As Jesus was your heart to us, may we be your heart to those around us. This we pray...

*Silent reflection on these words*

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

### THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 130

**Liturgist**

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

SERMON Righteous Anger in an Angry World

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #332 (NCH)

*"As We Gather at Your Table"*

### 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 Ellinwood on the passing of his wife Carol, 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"*

## OFFERTORY

### OFFERTORY MUSIC "*Bread of the World*"

John Hodges/Arr. Stanley Saxton

## 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.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the vine.

### Invitation

Let us lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

You created the heavens and the earth,  
and all your creatures draw their life from you.

Even when we have rebelled against you,  
you have never left us hanging in fear  
or crying from the depths.

In love and mercy you hear our yearning prayers  
and mark us out for the day of redemption.

You sent to us your Son, Jesus Christ,  
the bread of life for our deepest hunger,  
and you drew us to him that we might learn from  
him.

When the world turned against him,  
he gave himself up, in the fullness of love,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to you

for the life of the whole world,  
so that we and all who trust him  
might feed on him and have life without limit.

## **The Consecration**

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, after supper saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

## **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

The body of Christ, the living bread.

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

COMMUNION MUSIC #343 (NCH)

*“Jesus Took the Bread “*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

If the Lord recorded our sins, no one could survive,  
but God’s capacity for forgiveness is extraordinary.  
The Lord will bring mercy and grant full pardon.

Sisters and Brothers,  
your sins are forgiven;  
be at peace.

Go out and imitate God, living in love.  
Put your hope in God’s Word  
and let your own words be truthful and constructive.  
May sin rouse your anger,  
but never let anger cause you to sin.  
Don’t allow any room for evil.

And may God always hear your voice.  
May Christ Jesus raise you to new life;  
and may the Holy Spirit nourish you for the life of  
love.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
*In the name of Christ. Amen.***

\*CLOSING HYMN (Insert)

*“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”*



\*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"Two-Part Invention #4 in d minor"*

J.S. Bach

*Portions adapted from: Laughingbird, Thom Shuman, Richard Einerson*

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Worship Service**
- Cyndi Egan, **Liturgist**
- Lucy Simonds, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah Johnson, **providing bread for Communion**

**~This Week:**

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, Leading Worship, 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

**~Next Week:**

- Women’s Fellowship/Prayer Shawl leads our service, Aug 11
- Finance Meeting, Aug 12, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, Aug 12, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Aug 14, 10-11:00am, Barn
- Blueberry Festival, Aug 15, Rangeley Town Park, 10am – 3pm



The Adult Respite Care Program (HARC) provides a fun and engaging social day program designed for seniors suffering dementia. HARC enables caregivers to have a day of rest knowing that their loved ones are well-cared for. Located in the basement of Rangeley Family Medicine. Please call Jennifer at Health & Wellness, 864-4397.

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<u>Council President:</u>	Cyndy Egan	207-864-2255
<u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of week</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101