



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

— Karl Barth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE *“Down to the River/Shall We Gather at the River?”*
Traditional Spirituals/Arr. Pepper Choplin

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 111)

Liturgist & All

Leader: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with
my whole heart, in the company of the congregation.

All: Great are the works of the Lord studied by all who delight in them.

Leader: Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

All: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds, The Lord is gracious and merciful.

INVOCATION (Unison)

O God, as we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit to enliven our lives and ministries, take the shades from our eyes, the stoppers from our ears, and the shields from our hearts so that we can hear and see and feel anew the truth and life-giving power of your Word. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN "*Summoned by the God Who Made Us*"
Tune: NETTLETON/Words: Sylvia Dunstan (Insert)

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION (Unison) Rev. Wheeler

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us. Christ prays for us. With such assurance, we need not fear confession, but simply draw near to our maker in candor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and sent his Spirit to be with us always. We confess that

we have not trusted in the truth of that Spirit to enliven our hearts, to set us in the ways of justice, and to free us from fear. We have turned away from the gift of Christ's presence. Forgive us, and turn our hearts back to you, that we may be your faithful and loving people, walking in the footsteps of the One who came to transform the world. Amen.

...time for silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Ephesians 4:31-32)

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. For in Jesus Christ, we are fully and forever forgiven.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Liturgist

Ephesians 5:15-20

Liturgist

John 6:51-58

SERMON To hunger for wisdom is the beginning of wisdom.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE # 436 (NCH)**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

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, 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"

SERVICE OF GIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

O taste and see that the Lord is good, and happy are those who take refuge in him.

Surrounded and fed by God's goodness, let us return of the gifts that we have received in abundance.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"*

Tune: HENDON/Arr. John Purifoy

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)

We present these gifts, O Lord, asking that you will use them through the church to spread the abundance of your love and justice in the world, that all may taste your goodness. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *"Let All Creation Bless the Lord"* (Insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Bumble Boogie"

Rimsky-Korsakoff/Arr. Debra Wanless

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

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

~This Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, leads our worship service Aug 18
- Handbell Rehearsal, Aug 19, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Ecumenical Mahjong, Aug 19, 1-4pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, Aug 19, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Aug 21, 10-11:00am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets, Aug 23, 10-12p, Barn

~Next Week:

- Service next week TBD
- Handbell Rehearsal, Aug 26, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Aug 28, 10-11:00am, Barn

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