



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

We cannot attain the presence of God. We're already totally in the presence of God. What's missing is awareness.

-David Brenner

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: How beautiful are the places where you dwell,
 O Lord!

People: This house cannot contain your glory; even the heavens are bursting with the goodness of your presence!

Leader: Happy are those who find their strength in you.

People: Hear our prayers this day, Holy God, as we proclaim your praises to all the earth!

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN

CALL TO CONFESSION

People: God, our sun and shield, we may long to be in your house, but our deeds show how tough it is for us to live there. Called to follow, we search for paths to take us back to our old ways. Given the words of eternal life, we weakly proclaim the gospel to others. Offered the path of salvation to walk upon, we stumble down the rocky roads of our world.

Forgive us, Guardian of our lives. Strengthen us with your Spirit, so we may serve your people with all that brings them life. Let your Word, Jesus Christ, the One we have come to believe and know is our Lord and Savior, be confirmed in us in every word, every deed, every thought, every moment in the days to come.

Silent reflection on these words

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 84

Liturgist

1 Kings 8: 1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

SERMON God's Dwelling Place

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

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, Wendy Darienzzo, 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"

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you are the giver of honor and grace and we are eager for your presence with us.

The heavens and the earth cannot contain you for you have created them and hold them in your hand. And yet you dwell among your people and allow even the birds of the air to nest in your courts and honor you with their song.

You have sent your Holy One, Jesus Christ, to speak to us your word of Spirit and life. Though the forces of evil and death consumed him, he rose from the grave proclaiming your gospel of peace.

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

How lovely is your table of grace, God of mercy, the simple gifts of the bread and cup transformed by your love, your Spirit of joy and hope filling your people who come to your feast.

The bread of heaven feeds us with life, so we might go from person to person, bringing relief where there is pain, bringing hope where there is despair.

The cup of grace is filled with deep pools of your hope, so we might go to all the places of worry, anger, and discord, to share your peace for all people.

And when we are finally gathered with our sisters and brothers from every time and place, in the day that will never end, we will sing for joy to you, God of all peoples, Holy in One. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

Portions adapted from: Nathan Nettleton, Amy Loving

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Worship Service**
- Sarah Johnson, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah Johnson, **providing bread for Communion**

~This Week:

- ~ **HAPPY LABOR DAY** ~
- Ecumenical Mahjong, Sept 2, 1-4pm, Barn
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Sept 4, 10-11:00am, Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Tony MacNaughton, Leading Worship, Sept 8
- Handbell Rehearsals, Sept 9, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Finance Meeting, Sept 9, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, Sept 9, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Sept 11, 10-11:00am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets, Sept 13, 10-12am, Barn

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.

<u>Pastoral Care Services</u>	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 Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of week</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101