



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever.
Take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.

~ Saint Augustine

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "*And Can It Be*"

Thomas Campbell/Arr. Bill Ingram

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered
 over you this day.

People: We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.

Leader: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

People: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

Leader: Praise to be God who has called us here.

People: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love.
Amen.

INVOCATION (Unison)

Almighty and always gracious God, we are in awe of your magnificent power displayed through the entire universe, for through you all things were made and all things have their being. We come before you with grateful thanks and with hearts that long to adore you and worship only you. We gather and we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #38 (PH)

"Morning Has Broken"

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

Let us trust God's mercy and enter the liberating waters of forgiveness and grace. Together, let us boldly confess our sins and acknowledge our need for forgiveness

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

You call out to us, Holy God, from city streets, town squares and cattle gates, but we refuse to listen. Preoccupied with our projections of you, we fail to see how these thoughts disrupt our communion with each other. You offer an outstretched hand to join you in transforming our lives, but we deny such a dance with Divinity is possible, choosing complacency to your counsel. Forgive us, Logos of Love, when we ignore your unremitting call to live in the way of love. By your mercy, may we heed your call to examine our foolishness so we may live as fools for Christ's sake. Amen.

...time for silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved friends, receive the good news: the Risen Christ enters all corners of our lives and declares us forgiven. Having been forgiven, we take up Jesus's way of knowing, embracing it as we journey toward wholeness and peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 50:4–9

James 3:1–12

Mark 8:27–38

Liturgist

Liturgist

SERMON **“But, who do YOU say that I am?”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Insert)

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

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: *Nancy Zambraski, 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”

SERVICE OF GIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In Mark, Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” This question serves as a call to action for us to express and share the transformative and healing love of God that we experience in our lives through our generous giving of tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *“Prayer for the Innocents”*

In response to the tragic shootings in Orlando on June 12, 2016, and for all who have lost loved ones due to hate, intolerance, and violence, Michael Helman composed this original work.

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 who witnesses the cries and shouts of creation and receives our tithes and offerings. May our streets be filled with jubilation, our cities be embraced by peace, and our lives be blessed with abundance. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #556 (NCH)

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Amen Siakudumisa"

South African/Arr. Cathy Moglebust

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading today's Worship Service**
- Don Miller, **Liturgist**
- Rick Baker, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

Thank you to the Rangeley Ringers for today's special music: Jen Atwood, Carol Batchelder, Marie Beauregard, Debby Higgins, Zenna Inness, Sarah Johnson, Leona Kennett, Adrienne Marden, Ana Wetherill, Ben Wetherill & Brittany Wetherill

~This Week:

- Handbell Rehearsal, Sept 16, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Sept 18, 11:00am, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, Sept 16, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Ecumenical Mahjong, Sept 16, 1-4pm, Barn
- Piano/Voice Lessons, Sept 17, 18, 20, 3-5pm, Sanctuary

~Next Week:

- B&G Service for the Service, Sept 22, 10a, -12pm
- Piano/Voice Lessons, Sept 24, 25, 27, 3-5pm Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Sept, 18, 11:00am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets, Sept 27, 10am – 12pm, Barn

On September 22nd the Sunday Service will be a Service for the Service from 10 - 12pm to do fall projects in preparation for the changing season.



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