



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

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

September 29, 2024

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"Canon in D"*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God is here!

**People: God who loves each of us without measure,  
and welcomes us from every gender, race,  
color, creed, language, culture, and  
orientation.**

Leader: The world does not always see us for who we  
are.

**People:** We bring our pain and burdens before God today.

**Leader:** God, who sees us and knows us all, is here!

**People:** Halleluiah! Let all the people praise God!

### INVOCATION (Unison)

If we are uncertain and weary, speak to us, O God. If we are grounded and hopeful, speak to us. If our faith feels solid and steady, speak to us. And if our faith feels shaky and tentative, speak to us. Keep speaking through your holy Word, O God, that we may find our voice in yours. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

\*GATHERING HYMN #438 (NCH)

*"When Peace Like a River"*

## OUR CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

We long to gloss over the messy parts of our stories: the deceit, the anger and the heavy grudges. But nothing is hidden from God. We come before God and one another with complete honesty, naming our sins that we might reclaim our name as God's beloved children.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, forgive us for our failure to speak out and speak up for the victims of violence in our midst and around the world. Open our ears and hearts to hold space for your voice to

**return to us: the voice of a better way of healing and hope for all people. Show us this faithful path and give us the courage to walk in it, even if for the very first time. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, Amen.**

*...time for silent confession*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. We are a people set free from the harmful patterns of the past for a future God builds in our midst even now. We are whole people who are called to make this world whole, with God's help.

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Amos 8: 1-12**

**Liturgist**

**Jonah 3: 1 – 4: 2**

**SERMON**     *“You Are a Gracious God, and Merciful”*

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**

*“Jesus Christ Is Waiting “*

John Bell and Graham Maule

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;

no-one is his neighbor, all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'  
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

## 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:** *Sue Downes-Borko and her family on the recent passing of her Father, Russell Downes, Nancy Zambraski, Patrick Egan, Gerry Adams & Diane Schnellhammer, Bill & Mary Richards, Wendy Darienzo, Forrest Stephens, Kris Nozal, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, 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

We make our offering before God, not as payment for a grace we could never afford, but as an act of commitment and gratitude for the God who builds a new world in our midst, even now. We do not give out of guilt or pride. We give out of joy, trusting that God will use these gifts for the good of all people.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC *"The Peace of the Earth"*

Taizé Community

### 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)**

**Accept all that is offered in this place this day, O God.  
Accept our material commitments to build a more  
peaceable family on this earth and in our own  
communities. Accept our personal commitments to become  
a people who break cycles of hatred and retaliation, in  
both large-scale and everyday ways. Use these gifts, and  
use us messy people, for the rebuilding of a world of hope  
and healing in your name. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #63 (PH)

*“Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Leader: We will not always get this human story right.

**People: But – even in silence – God never abandons us.**

Leader: We are a people made for delight, and joy, and  
justice.

**People: We are called very good.  
We will walk with integrity.  
We will speak with courage.**

Leader: Blessed by God, we will change this world – and  
ourselves – for the better.

In the name of God in community, Three-in-One,  
may it be so. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*“Spring”, from The Four Seasons*

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading today's Worship Service**
- Tim Wallace, **today's special music**
- Kathy Brittain, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Oct 2, 11:00am, Barn
- Piano/Voice Lessons, Oct 1, 2 & 4, 3-5pm, Sanctuary

~Next Week:

- Pastor Scott Hatfield leads Worship, Oct 6, 10am
- Ecumenical Mahjong, Oct 7, 1-3pm, Barn
- Piano/Voice Lessons, Oct 8, 9 & 11, 3-5pm Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Oct, 9, 11:00am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets, Oct 11, 10am – 12pm, Barn

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