



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

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

October 6, 2024

10:00 AM

***Meditation:***

*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.*

-Ephesians 4:31-32

*“Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you  
may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost.”*

-Abraham Lincoln

*“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to  
recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”*

-Audre Lorde

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

PRELUDE "Walk a Mile in My Shoes"

Joe South

*If I could be you and you could be me for just one hour,  
if we could find a way to get inside each other's mind.*

*If you could see you through my eyes instead of your ego, I believe  
you'd be surprised to see that you'd been blind.*

*Walk a mile in my shoes, walk a mile in my shoes,  
and before you abuse, criticize and accuse,  
walk a mile in my shoes.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader & People**

**Leader:** If this election season has left you feeling  
hopeless and heart sick

**People:** **Come, hear God's word of peace, hope, and  
unity.**

**Leader:** If you feel like your voice is lost in the public  
square

**People:** **Come, and remember the covenant God has  
made with you, to never leave you.**

**Leader:** If political views and rhetoric have damaged  
your relationships

**People:** **Come, to the table where all are forgiven and  
welcomed.**

**Leader:** If the brokenness of the world, the nation, and  
the city seem beyond repair

**People:** **Come, to pray for the coming of God's realm  
here and now.**

## INVOCATION

\*GATHERING HYMN #394 (NCH)

*"In Christ There Is No East or West"*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**People:** Gracious God, we are blessed to live in a democracy where each citizen has the opportunity and the responsibility to participate in our decision-making processes. Our faith belongs in the voting booth as well as in the sanctuary!

Justice-Seeking God, we know that our policymakers impact our lives: our children's futures, our economy, our health, our jobs, our security. Our faith belongs in the voting booth as well as in the sanctuary!

Community-Building God we know that questions of public policy are also matters of faith. You desire each of us to live a life of wholeness; to have the opportunities to fulfill our potential and become the persons you have created us to be. Our faith belongs in the voting booth as well as in the sanctuary!

But Holy One, help us to find a way to cut through the confusion and the spin. Give us patience to consider and make wise choices that will lead ever closer to your vision of the

**Beloved Community. Our faith belongs in the  
voting booth as well as the sanctuary!**

*Silent reflection on these words*

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

**THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE

**1 Samuel 8**

**Liturgist**

**Ephesians 4:1-6**

SERMON    An Opportunity for Grace

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #388 (NCH)

*“Help Us Accept Each Other”*

**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, Mary  
Ellen Simon, Linda Caspars’ brother-in-law, Conrad Guerra.  
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"*

## OFFERTORY

### OFFERTORY MUSIC *"Echo of Praise"*

Based on AUSTRIAN HYMN/Arr. Livingston

## 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**

We give you thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you before all time, by whom you made the world and all things.

We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people.

Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us to our sin, but sent us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation.

Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our only Savior, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

In the fullness of time, you came to us and received our nature in the person Jesus, who in obedience to you, by suffering on the cross and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church.

Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, God Most Holy.

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

### 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 #347 (NCH)

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an**

**uncertain world, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*

(Can be found inside the back cover of your hymnal or in the pew rack)

\*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*“Christians, We Have Met to Worship”*

HOLY MANNA/Arr. Mark Hayes

*Portions adapted from: Worship Ways; Edith Rasell, UCC Minister for Economic Justice.*

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Worship Service**
- Bob Silvia, **Liturgist**
- Fred Dubay, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah Johnson, **providing bread for Communion**
- Janice Bredeau & Susie Welch, **Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Ecumenical Mahjong, Oct 7, 1-3pm, Barn
- Piano/Voice lessons, Oct 8, 9 & 11, 3-5pm, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Oct 9, 11am, Barn
- Women’s Fellowship meet, Oct 11, 10am-12pm, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Rev. Tony MacNaughton, Leading Worship, Oct 13
- Finance Meeting, Oct 14, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano/Voice lessons, Oct 15, 16 & 18, 3-5pm, Sanctuary
- Council Meeting, Oct 14, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Oct 16, 11am, Barn
- Women’s Fellowship meets, Oct 18, 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

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| <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<br>Lucy Simonds | 207-712-0490<br>207-462-2101 |
| <u>Deacon of week</u>         | Fred Dubay                   | 207-864-5234                 |