



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 2025

10:00 AM

Meditation:

"If the new were part of the old, the prophet would not ask, 'Do you see it?', for we already would. We cannot be born anew if the power of the old is not broken within us."

-Paul Tillich

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"Adagio, from Concerto in A, K. 622"*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: We come to this place because we want to
know God,

People: who helps us set aside the past, to walk the path to new life.

Leader: We come in these moments because we want to know Jesus,

People: who anoints us with the resurrection, who shares our lives with us.

Leader: We come with these people because we want to know the Spirit,

People: who shapes us for life with God, so we may praise God forever!

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN 195# (NCH) *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

People: Like Judas, God of new things, we like to complain about your generous ways, rather than living in your grace. In our memories, we focus on a perceived golden past, and so we ignore the new things you do in our midst. We are so enamored with our achievements that we are not willing to throw them away in order to follow Jesus. Forgive us, Restoring God, and help us to notice the kingdom springing forth in our midst. By your grace, may our fears turn to faith, our

**seeds of grief produce a bumper crop of joy,
and our tears turn into torrents of tenderness
as we journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and
Savior, to Jerusalem.**

Silent reflection on these words

WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 43:16-21

Liturgist

Psalms 126

Liturgist

John 12:1-8

SERMON *“A Season of New and Better Things”*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #177 (PH)**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

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: Zenna Inness, Meredith Loudon & Sharon Muench,
Linda Caspar’s brother-in-law, Conrad Guerra and nephew,
William Lane; and Paula Hatfield’s father, Paul Behrman.*

We pray for Carol & Dan Perkins; Bill & Mary Richards, Gerry Adams & Diane Schnellhammer, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Janice Bredeau, Georgie Gimbel and Patrick Egan. We pray for all those whose lives are impacted by natural disasters, gun violence, conflict, and war around the world and here at home.

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

"On Wings of a Song"

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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

May the God of all new things be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer our hearts to the One who restores us to new life.

May we empty them of all that holds us back,
so God may fill the emptiness with grace.

May our hearts overflow with praise to God.

May joy and laughter resound in our words and lives.

Eucharistic Prayer

You made a path through the emptiness
of chaos, God of every imagination,
sending creation to spring forth by cool pools of
water.

You even shaped us for life with you,
so we might share in this beauty and goodness,
but we threw aside all these gifts
in order to know sin and death.

You sent prophets to us,
who encouraged us to let go of the past

and to return to your side,
but we didn't care about their words,
thinking such a life to be too costly.
So you sent Jesus to us,
setting aside your grieving heart
so we might be restored to you.
So with those who long to know you,
with those who run to be with you,
we offer our songs of thanksgiving:
Holy, holy, holy are you, God of new things.
All creation honors you with praise and joy.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes to take hold of us.
Hosanna in the highest!
Though you are holy, God of restoration,
you were willing to set aside all we had done,
so that Jesus might anoint us with new life.
He could have clung to his glory,
but set it aside to become one of us;
he could have been surrounded by your love,
but walked into the forest of our fears,
to make a way out for us;
he could have avoided pain and suffering,
but went into sin's cold embrace,
to bring back death's captives.
As we long to want to know Jesus more,
as we seek to be restored to life by you,
we speak of that mystery we call faith:

**Christ lost his life so we might find ours;
Christ was raised, his resurrection springing forth in
us;
Christ will come, that we might gain eternity with
God.**

The Consecration

We pray that you would anoint
this Table and its gifts of the bread and cup
with your Spirit of life and love,
which are offered to the people you love.
When we take the bread
break it and eat of it,
we forget about our past
and embrace your kingdom.
When we drink from the cup,
the fragrance of your grace fills us
to go and serve your people:
the poor who do not always need to be,
the lonely who can be offered a family,
the grieving who can be cradled in love.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The body of Christ, the living bread.
The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

COMMUNION MUSIC #330 (NCH)

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

When the past is finally behind us
and we are gathered in the new Jerusalem
with our sisters and brothers of every time and
place,
we will join our hands around your feast,
and sing your praises from the depths of our hearts,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #198 (NCH) *"Lift High the Cross"*

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Allegro, from Septième Sonate"
Xaviar Lefèvre (1763-1829)

*Portions adapted from: Thom Shuman, Discipleship Ministries,
Carol Penner*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Palm Sunday is April 13th.

**Join us for a joint worship service at the Church of
the Good Shepherd with the Handbell Choir.**

Start time 9:30am.

Coffee Hour will follow

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Worship Service**
- Rick Baker, **Liturgist**
- Claire Chase, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah Johnson, **providing bread for Communion**
- Linda Caspar, **Coffee Hour**
- Gia Walton, **today's special music.**

~This Week:

- Handbell Choir, April 7, 8- 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, April 7, 1-3pm, Barn
- Piano/Voice lessons, April 8, 9 & 11, 3-5pm, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, April 9, 9am, Barn
- Winter Women's Social, April 11, 10-12pm. Barn

~Next Week:

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, Leading Worship, April 13
- Handbell Choir, April 7, 8- 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Finance Meeting, April 14, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, April 14, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano/Voice lessons, April 15, 16 & 18, 3-5pm, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, April 16, 9am, Barn
- MAUNDY THURSDAY - Draping of the Cross at **5:30pm**, Sanctuary & Zoom
- Maundy Thursday service at Good Shepherd, all invited., **6:00pm**

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 the week</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490