



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

10:00 AM

Meditation:

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” – 2 Cor. 5: 14

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Based on HYMN TO JOY (Beethoven)/Arr. John Purifoy

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: Christ the Lord is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: O sing unto the Lord, for he has done excellent things.

People: **Alleluia! Now we cry to our King immortal, who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;**

Leader: Grace be to you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of kings on earth.

People: **Alleluia, amen!**

INVOCATION (Unison)

Almighty God, who through your Son overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life, grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection may arise from the death of our sin through the renewal of your Holy Spirit. And may we hear and obey your living Word of truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Alleluia, amen!

*GREENING OF THE CROSS

#245 (NCH).

"The Day of Resurrection"

#240 (NCH)

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

#230 (NCH)

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, not even death. Trusting in this Good News, let us turn to God to honestly confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

You call us to hope, Savior God, but we despair. You call us to work for peace, but we doubt its power. You call us to community, but we judge and shun. Transform us, Holy One, by the joy of this Easter. Let us celebrate this day as a new beginning and a new life. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ conquered death to restore us to life. Believe this good news. Live this resurrection. Hope in God's promise because we are forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 1-12

Liturgist

Isaiah 6: 1-8

SERMON "A Minor Revelation"

(Lightly adapted from Walter Wangerin)

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #237 (NCH)

"I Come to the Garden Alone"

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: Dave Walker's nephew, Jameson Walker; 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 and Georgie Gimbel. 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 #236 (NCH)

"Halleluja"

(Sing 3x)

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With glad and generous hearts, let us give from what we have received.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Christ Bursts the Bonds of Death"
Gregg Sewell

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, you meet our needs and transform us for service.
Accept these gifts as tokens of our gratitude and bless our
ministry in Christ's service with these offerings. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #233 (NCH)

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Hallelujah! Resurrection Day!"

Larry Shackley

Happy Easter! Wishing you a blessed and Holy Easter!

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

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

~This Week:

- Handbell Choir, April 21, 8- 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, April 21, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, April 21, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano/Voice lessons, April 22, 23, & 25, 3-5pm,
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, April 23, 9am, Barn
- Winter Women's Social, April 25, 10-12pm. Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, Leading Worship, April 27
- Handbell Choir, April 28, 8- 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Piano/Voice lessons, April 29, 30, & May 2, 3-5pm,
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, April 30, 9am, Barn

<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>	Linda Caspar	207-864-5539