



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025

10:00 AM

Meditation:

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried."

G. K. Chesterton

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Morning Has Broken"

Tune: BUNESSAN/Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

People: **Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

People: **He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious and Loving God, you once declared, "See, I am making all things new." So now, through your Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your transforming word in Scripture. Grant us a new vision of the height, depth, and breadth of your trustworthy and true love, that we may be inspired to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, reflecting the new creation you have begun in us. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN (Insert)

"All Are Welcome"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

When we fail to live in the new way of love Jesus commands,
We distance ourselves from the truth and pretend to possess
a righteousness that is only ours through Christ. Knowing
God's steadfast love is trustworthy and true, let us confess
our shortcomings together, seeking the Spirit's new
workings within us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Loving God, you call us to your merciful, gracious love, freely given without expectation or strings attached. We are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, but we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others. We would rather show mercy to those we judge worthy, forgetting the new commandment to love as you have loved us. We would rather extend grace to those who will show us grace in return, missing the trustworthy and true nature of your boundless forgiveness. Forgive us, Redeeming God. And transform our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love so that our relationships and your world are transformed. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Behold: The former things have passed away, and God's grace flows like a river of new life. Friends, hear the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! We are made anew! Thanks be to God! Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Liturgist

Liturgist

SERMON Love, as I have loved you

*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: The family & friends of Meredith Loudon on her recent passing; the Hatfield family on the recent passing of Paula's father, Paul Behrman; Diane Schnellhammer on the recent passing of Gerry Adams.

We pray for Jack Tourtillotte, Ray Franson, Barbara Heinzman, Carol & Dan Perkin, Bill & Mary Richards, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, 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 #812 (NCH)

“Threefold Amen”

SERVICE OF GIVING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Just as God pours out new blessings without measure, let us, with hearts overflowing with gratitude for this divine generosity in our lives, offer ourselves and our resources for the ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ in this new creation being ushered in.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Be Still, My Soul”

Tune: FINLANDIA/Arr. Laura Bergquist

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)**

Generous God, receive these gifts that we place before your throne. Do more with them than we can ask or imagine, furthering the holy work of your new kingdom in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who revealed to us the truth of your loving commands. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN (Insert)

"They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love"

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Rondo alla Turca"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Liturgy adapted from Presbyterian Outlook, written by
Brian Christopher Coulter.

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Millie Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Handbell Choir, May 19, 8- 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, May 19, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacon Meeting, May 19, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano/Voice lessons, May 20, 21 & 23, 3-5pm,
Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, May 21, 9am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship, May 23, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Tony MacNaughton leading worship service, May 25
- Handbell Choir, May 26, 8- 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Piano/Voice lessons, May 27, 28 & 30, 3-5pm,
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, May 28, 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>	Nancy Zambraski	207-864-2250

