



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

"The darker the circumstances, the more brilliant the invitation."

-Joanna Macy

July 12, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Climb Every Mountain"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalms 65 and 119)

Leader: Holy One, daily I lose my way amidst the challenges of life, but I do not stray.

People: **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

Leader: When I am fearful and unsure, your wisdom and divine compass comfort me.

People: You silence the roaring of the seas and the tumult of the people.

Leader: Accept my offerings of praise, help me to remember your everlasting truths.

People: You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

Leader: Your laws of love are not a burden, but are a joy to my heart.

People: You make the gateways for the morning and the evening shout for joy.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Creator of Love and Light: Bless this gathering of your people. We come with our lives in our hands. We bring our sorrows and our joys, our fears, our mistakes, our petty annoyances, our prejudices and anxieties. We come to seek friendship and comfort in community with one another. We come with open hearts ready to hear and contemplate your wisdom. As we worship here today, incline our hearts toward peace, toward love, toward balance and let us shout and sing together for joy! Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #474 (NCH)

"I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Please join me now in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy One, We incline our heart toward you, but the concerns of the world and challenges of daily living pull us away. Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, our presence, your abundance. Reorient us on the road to liberation so that we join together with family, siblings, neighbors, and even enemies in your work of making all things new. Sustain us as we continue to sow the seeds of balance, peace and joy in ourselves and in our world. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rest in the assurance that however lost, angry, depleted, or confused we may feel about our own lives or about the fate of our world, the wisdom of the Holy One is always there to guide us. Our faith in the power of redemption and liberation matters. Our dreams and prayers for equality, justice, mercy and love create the “good soil” where the seeds of Holy wisdom take root.

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 25: 19-34

Isaiah 55: 10-13

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Liturgist

Liturgist

SERMON God as Master Gardener

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #394 (NCH)

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

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: Peter and Nini Christensen, Don & Susie Welch, Corinne Morton, Cyndy Egan's parents David & Dianne Scammon, Sheila Raymond, Marlene Knowles' daughter-in-law, Shannon Linder, Crystal Haley, Susan & Jack Tourtillotte, Maxie & AJ Elmes and their son, Granger, Carol & Dan Perkins, Bill & Mary Richards, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, and finally, we pray for all those whose lives are impacted by natural disasters, violence, war, and those suffering from personal life challenges 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.**

SERVICE OF GIVING**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

Our psalms today are overflowing with joy at the abundance of this world and the generosity of the Creator's wisdom and guidance. Just as the singer of psalm 65 celebrates God's power to sustain the earth and us, the people of the earth, we have a small, human-sized opportunity to share whatever abundance we have to support the holy work of this community of dreamers and doers of good. In gratitude and graciousness, whatever gifts we have received, may we now offer a portion of them in return.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

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**

Creator, Life Give, Holy Spirit: We give you thanks and praise. Receive our gifts of money, time, and talent as a joyful thank you for the wonder of your creation. Transform the gifts we give so that they multiply and grow in abundance to aid in the holy work of making all things new.

*CLOSING HYMN #481 (NCH)

"As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams"

BENEDICTION

***I Didn't Know* (by poet Circe Maia)**

(translated from the Spanish by Jesse Lee Kercheval)

I didn't know it had rained,
and suddenly, stepping out into the street,
I found water on the leaves
and the asphalt wet and shining.
The paving stones washed clean and white
and the air light and so very clear.
Did no one see it fall?
Did no one see it?

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Love Like This"

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

- Gretchen Legler **for leading worship service**
- Les Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Fred Dubay, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

No Coffee Hour, stay for the Annual Meeting directly after worship service.



~Next Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler leading worship, July 19
- Mahjong in the Barn, July 20, 1-3pm
- Deacons' Meeting, July 20, East Room & Zoom, 3pm
- Women's Fellowship meets, July 24, 10-12pm, Barn
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<u>Deacon of week</u>	Fred Dubay	207-864-5234