



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

“Let my soul smile through my heart and my heart smile through my eyes, that I may scatter rich smiles in sad hearts.”

– *Paramahansa Yogananda*

July 19, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Blessings”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Surely the Lord is in this place, and we did not know it.

People: **We do not know when and where God’s glorious presence will show up.**

Leader: Surely, we are the Body of Christ.
People: We cannot say to one another, "I have no need of you."
Leader: Surely our God is a mystery that cannot be contained.
All: Let us worship our unpredictable and uncontrollable God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who claims us and makes us your own, join us as we come to the Scriptures today. Reveal to us the Word within the words, that we might see Jesus and learn his way. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #493 (NCH)

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Before a word is on our tongue, God knows it completely. Before we ask for forgiveness, God is at work to set things right. Let us therefore confess our sin and the sin of the world together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord, you have searched us and found us wanting. You have known our inmost thoughts and called us to better things. You have set us in this world to love and serve you by loving and serving one another, to worship you by tending to those most vulnerable among us. When we fail, do not abandon us. When we go astray, call us back home.

Search us O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our thoughts. Root out the wicked ways in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Where can we go from God's spirit, or where can we flee from God's presence? Even if we take the wings of the morning or settle at the farthest limits of the sea, God's hand will find us and hold us fast. Proclaim the good news with me:

**People: Our God does not abandon us to sin or
 brokenness. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
 and called back home. Thanks be to God.
 Amen.**

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28:10-19a

Liturgist

Romans 8:12-25

Liturgist

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

SERMON Don't Worry About the Mule Going Blind!

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #290 (NCH)**

"Spirit Of God, Descend upon My Heart"

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.

CHORAL AMEN #812 (NCH)

"Threefold Amen"

SERVICE OF GIVING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

The creation groans with labor pains, waiting and longing for the children of God to be revealed. As God's people, called to be those children, let us give back a portion of what has been given to us as we receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Just As I Am"

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)

**Gracious God, you have sown good seed among us.
Receive now the harvest of what you have planted, the
good gifts of our lives, time and resources, to further your
kingdom of heaven. We pray in the name of our Savior
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #283 (NCH)

"Spirit of the Living God"

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

As we go from this place, let us look for God in unexpected places and unexpected people. Let us love and serve our Lord by loving and serving those around us. Let us honor the most vulnerable and lift up the weak, rejoicing in God's presence among us.

And may the grace of Christ Jesus, the love of the Creator God, and the connecting power of the Holy Spirit accompany us all on our journeys. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Be Thou My Vision”

Today’s Liturgy is adapted from The Presbyterian Outlook, written by Ginna Bairby and is used with permission.

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- Kathy Brittain, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**
- Zenna Inness & Marcia Baker, **for providing Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, July 20th, 1-3pm
- Deacons’ Meeting, July 20th, 3pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women’s Fellowship meets July 24, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Jack Zappulla provides worship on, July 26

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