



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

"We're all called. If you're here breathing, you have a contribution to make to our human community."

--Oprah Winfrey

August 23, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Rescue"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 138)

Leader: Holy One, we praise you with our whole hearts.

People: We worship in your holy temple and praise your name for your loving kindness and for your truth.

Leader: In the day when we cried you answered us and strengthened us.

People: All the kings of the earth shall praise you.

Leader: Though you are all powerful, yet you respect the lowly.

People: Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you will revive us.

Leader: You will stretch out your hand and save us.

People: Your mercy endures forever. You will not forsake us or your creation.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Opening Prayer) (Unison)
Gracious and Loving God, we gather as your people today, as always, to remember that we are your servants. If your spirit had not been with us in every generation when it seemed hopeless, we would have given up. Thank you for strengthening us for the struggle, comforting us through the pain, fortifying us to face and proclaim the truth, and giving us the courage to be disobedient in the face of injustice. Our help comes from the Creator who made and heaven and earth, who is always with us and for us, and who makes all things new! Amen.

This prayer was adapted from "Living Psalm 124" written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay, UCC Worship Ways

*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, the midwives in Exodus who disobeyed the king were so courageous. They seemed so sure of their actions. We are often not so sure of what is the right thing to do, and often afraid of what might happen if we act in accordance with our conscience like they did. Help us hear your voice and grant us the courage to do whatever we can, no matter how small, to thwart injustice, to help those in need, and work for peace for your people and this planet. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God is always speaking to us. If we listen intently, we will be guided and we will receive the wisdom, courage and strength to co-create a new world.

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Matthew 16: 13-20

Liturgist

SERMON The Call to Disobedience

*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, 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 (Sung)

**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

When we share our resources in community, we are being *disobedient to fear*, the fear that we won't have enough. Instead, we are rejoicing, like the psalmist in psalm 138, praising God with our whole heart. When we share our resources of time, talent, and money, we demonstrate our faith and trust in God's provision and in our collective power. When we give, we replicate the Holy One's generosity and creativity. When we offer ourselves, we magnify the blessings Creator has bestowed upon us. Let us give in a spirit of joy and hope.

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**

Wonderful God, please sanctify these gifts, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kingdom. May they meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong.

*CLOSING HYMN #481 (NCH)

"As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams"

BENEDICTION

"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing,
there is a field. I'll meet you there. When the soul lies down
in that grass, the world is too full to talk about. Ideas,
language, even the phrase "each other" doesn't make any
sense."

From "The Great Wagon," by Persian
poet Jelaluddin Rumi (1207-1273)

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**
- Rick Baker, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**
- Marcia Baker, **for providing Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Women's Fellowship meets August 28, 10-12pm,
Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler provides worship on, August 30

If you have a need for pastoral care, please get in touch with a Deacon or Scott Hatfield. All numbers are listed below.

If you are in need of pastoral care at Franklin Hospital, Rev. Stan Wheeler may be called and, if he is available, will attend to your pastoral needs.

Pastor Scott Hatfield 207-670-8141

Rev. Stan Wheeler 207-491-5824

Deacons:

Lucy Simonds 207-462-2101

Claire Chase 207-712-0490

Linda Caspar 207-670-5073

Fred Dubay 207-864-5234

Nancy Zambraski 207-864-2250

Joann Bean 207-670-5000

<u>Church Secretary</u>	rangeleyucc@gmail.com	207-864-5966
<u>Song Leader:</u>	Erin Perkins Smith	207-670-5153
<u>Council President:</u>	Cyndy Egan	207-864-2255
<u>Co-Chair of</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490
<u>Deacons:</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of week</u>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073