



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 2026

10:00 AM

Meditation:

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.

-- *Rabindranath Tagore*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Hold On to Me"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

People: God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.

Leader: When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

People: Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.

Leader: When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

People: the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #588 (NCH)

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We know how easy it is to do exactly the opposite of what we learn from our teacher, Jesus. So, let us draw near to our God. In confessing our shortcomings, we will discover the grace and mercy God has in store for us. Join me as we pray, saying:

People: When we come to the edge of your holiness, Constant Love, we know that we have not lived as your children. We dam up for ourselves your rivers of love, while the lives around us turn into deserts of loneliness. All too quickly, we place our feet on the

quicksand of fear, not wanting to step across to your faith.

Forgive us, Listener to our hearts. By your patient grace, lead us to practice our calling to discipleship, so we might do all we need to live as sisters and brothers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:1-12

Liturgist

Micah 3:5-12

Liturgist

Joshua 3:7-17

SERMON **Stepping In**

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #570 (NCH)**

"We Shall Overcome"

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: Martha Bicknell, Peter and Nini Christensen, Jessica House, 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

**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"

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"O Grant Us, God, A Little Space"

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the vine.

Invitation

May creation's Guide be with you!

And also with you!

Weary wanderers, offer your hearts to God;

who takes us by the heart to lead us back to faithfulness.

Do not hesitate, but step forward with joy into God's way.

We will do so, singing to the One who immerses us in hope.

Eucharistic Prayer

Standing at the edge of chaos,
you cried out, Exalted Love,
and all creation sprang forth
from the goodness of your Word.

But we chose to wander
through the deserts of death.

Like a parent with her children,
you encouraged us to change,
sending the prophets to bring us back.

Then you chose to send Jesus,
to be the Witness to your
never-ending love for us.

So, with wanderers and witnesses,
with those who cried out to you,
and those who followed your promises,
we lift our songs with our sisters and brothers
who forever sing your praises:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of steadfast love.
Blessed is the One who calls us to humble service.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayer of Consecration

Pour out your Holy Spirit
upon those gathered
from every corner of the world,
and upon the gifts of the bread and the cup.
As your grace fills us,
may we go forth,
in thanksgiving and humility,
to feed the hungry around us.
As the cup turns our parched souls
into fountains of hope,
may we overflow in service
to those who wander in our midst.

Then, when all time has ended,
when the truly humble find themselves
seated beside you at the Table in eternity,
we will join our voices in thanksgiving to
God in Community, Holy in One.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The body of Christ, the living bread.

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

COMMUNION MUSIC #330 NCH

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Go forth as God's people into the world.

We will go to serve those who stand at the edges of life.

Go forth as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

We will go to teach the world the ways of peace and hope.

Go forth as those filled with the Spirit.

We will go to share our lives with everyone we meet.

*CLOSING HYMN #573 (NCH)

"Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Bridge Over Troubled Water"

Portions adapted from: Rev. Thom Shuman, Sacredise, Dave Hopwood

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Liturgist**
- Lucy Simonds, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Linda Caspar, Nancy Zambraski, & Kathy Brittain, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Rangeley Ringers rehearsal November 2, 9-10:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, November 2, 1-3pm, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets, November 6, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- F-Team Congregational Family Meeting, 10-11am (No worship service), Barn
- Rangeley Ringers rehearsal, November 9, 9-10:30am, Sanctuary
- Finance Meeting, November 9, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, November 9, 4:00pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women's Fellowship meets, November 13, 10-12pm, Barn

On November 8th, instead of our regular worship service, there will be a congregation family meeting from 10am – 11am in the Barn.

A zoom link will be provided.

The Church Council will be hosting coffee hour.

<u>Church Secretary</u>	rangeleyucc@gmail.com	207-864-5966
<u>Song Leader</u>	Erin Perkins Smith	207-864-5346
<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>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101

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