



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
The Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation: *“If you have heard the Easter message, you can no longer run around with a tragic face and lead the humorless existence of a (person) who has no hope. One thing still holds, and only this one thing I really serious, that Jesus is the Victor.”*

-Karl Barth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *“Crown Him With Many Crowns”*

George J. Elvey/Arr. Larry Shackley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 4)

Leader: The Lord hears us when we call:

People: Come, let us put our trust in God.

Leader: The Lord fills our hearts with gladness.

People: Come, let us sing God’s praises with shouts of joy!

Leader: The Lord grants peace to our weary souls:
People: **Come, let us rest by the quiet waters of God's grace.**

INVOCATION: (Unison)

Lord, may we know the presence of the Holy Spirit here with us today. May we be open to your leading, sensitive to you speaking and alert to your calling. Gracious God, we invite the same power that was at work when Jesus was raised from the grave to be present with us here now.

***GATHERING HYMN #139 (PH)**

"Thine Is the Glory"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Stan Wheeler

To repent is to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ Jesus. Scripture promises that when we confess, God hears our cries and wipes away our sin (Acts 3:19). Trusting in God's promises of new life, let us confess our sins and the sin of this world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Risen Christ, we are often troubled by our doubts. But you are not troubled by them. You do not require perfect understanding. Instead, you reveal yourself to us again and again that we might come to know you. Forgive us when our doubts keep us stuck, when fear prevents us from loving all creation as you call us to do. Help us to accept the peace you so graciously offer to us. Have mercy on us when we hoard or hide it, when we fail to offer it to others. Renew us and make us whole that in this world of

strife we may be bearers of your peace. In resurrection hope we pray, Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Rev. Stan Wheeler
"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are" (1 John 3:1). Children of God, we are claimed by God, forgiven of our sins, and set free for love. Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: **(Unison)**
Redeeming God, as we hear your Word spoken to us, open our eyes to see the risen Christ, open our ears to hear the good news of his salvation for all the world, and open our minds to understand the mysteries of your love. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Liturgist

SERMON "Asking the Wrong Question"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE (Insert)

"Lord of the Dance"

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: *Marlene Knowles on the passing of her husband Donald, Priscilla St. Louis, Kit & Linda Caspar, Linda Caspar's sister Marilyn Dixon, Wes McCray, Forrest Stephens, Kris Nozal, Michael Hulse, Jeff & Carol Ellinwood, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Erin Smith's parents Carol & Dan Perkins, Patrick Egan, and we pray for all those who guide and lead us in worship.*

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

In response to God's abundant grace at work in our lives, let us present with gratitude our gifts of time, talent and treasure, for the building up of God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *"I Come to the Garden Alone"*

C. Austin Miles/Arr.Dale Wood

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)**

Living Lord, we give you thanks for the bounty of your grace: you create us in your image, shower us with your love, forgive us when we turn away from you, and give us a future with hope. Bless these gifts we offer you today, and make us good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. May our gifts bring joy and peace in our church and in our community. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #223 (PH)

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Because He Lives"

William & Gloria Gaither/Arr. Jack Schrader

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**

- Kathy Brittain , **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Paula Hatfield, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Deacons’ Meeting, April 15, 3pm, East Room & Zoom

~Next Week:

- Worship, Quiet Contemplative Prayer, April 21, Sanctuary, 10am
- Piano Lessons w/ Erin, April 22, 23, 24, 26, Sanctuary. April 25, 3-5pm, East Room.
- Women’s Winter Social, April 26, 10am-12pm, Barn

Sue is seeking hymn requests for April 28th’s Song and Soup Service.

Pastoral Care Services	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
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<u>Co-Chair of</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490
<u>Deacons:</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of wk</u>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073