



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

**Meditation:**

*“As long as we continue to live as if we are what we do, what we have, and what other people think about us, we will remain filled with judgments, opinions, evaluations, and condemnations. We will remain addicted to putting people and things in their ‘right’ place.”*

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

October 26, 2025

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*“Amazing Grace”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy One, thank you for this beautiful day! Be among us now as we worship together in this sacred space. We come seeking your wisdom.

**People: Help us be awake to your guidance.**

Leader: We come seeking the humility that brings us closer to you.

**People: Help us know that you are a constant presence in our lives.**

Leader: We come seeking insight and courage.

**People: Help us recognize that we do not need to justify ourselves to receive your love.**

#### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Holy One, the temptation to judge others is often overwhelming. Instead of comparing ourselves to others, help us accept our mutual need for you, God, and our oneness with all humanity. Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN #459 (NCH)

*"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to you each day Holy One, with the desire to do good work in this world with an open heart. Sometimes we are ignorant of your ways, or our own arrogance gets in the way, and we erect barricades against you. Forgive us. We are doing the best we can.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**O Lord, you are our shepherd, And yet we want. We lie**

down when we could act, We stir the pot when we could offer peace, We wander tempting paths instead of following you. We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them, We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog "Hold Fast to What is Good."

*Silent reflection on these words*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

No matter how many times we stray away from our connection with you, God, we can be assured that we are always welcome back. Thank you.

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:9-14

Psalms 65

**Liturgist**

SERMON      The Closest Possible Intimacy

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #305 (NCH)

*"You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim"*

## 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: Tony MacNaughton, Lois Zappulla, Sheila Raymond, Mark Whiteside, Carol Batchelder and family, Marlene Knowles' daughter-in-law Shannon Linder, Crystal Haley, Susan & Jack Tourtillotte, Maxie & AJ Elmes and their baby, Granger, Carol & Dan Perkins, Bill & Mary Richards, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Sue Downes and those serving in the Peace Corp: 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

Out of gratitude for all that God has provided for us and with hope for a future that continues to unfold toward God's promised end, we bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"*

### 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)

**We give you thanks, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is within them, for the gift of this day, this moment of worship, and your word which is engraved upon our hearts. Receive and bless these gifts that we return to you, as a symbol of the dedication of our entire lives, that we as your church might be ever more faithful in your work of reconciliation, love and joy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### \*CLOSING HYMN #455 (NCH)

*"I Am Yours, O Lord"*

## \*THE BENEDICTION

A prayer of humility from the St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

## POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"You'll Never Walk Alone"*

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

- Gretchen Legler, **for leading worship service**
- Don Miller, **Liturgist**
- Claire Chase, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Women's Fellowship, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

**~This Week:**

- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Oct 29, 9am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship, Oct 31, 10am-12pm, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, Leading Communion Service, Nov 2
- Mahjong in the Barn, Nov 3, 1-3pm, Barn
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Nov 5, 9am, Barn
- Women's Fellowship, Nov 7, 10-12pm, Barn

<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 the</u> <u>wk</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490