



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

November 2, 2025

10:00 AM

Meditation:

*To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary;
to one without faith, no explanation is possible.*

-St. Thomas Aquinas

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Feels Like Home"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: We gather, as God's people, bringing our fears
and pain, knowing that when our spirits have
grown cold,

People: God rekindles the gift of faith in us.

Leader: We gather, as God's people, hanging our broken hearts on the branches of the tree of life, knowing that while friends may turn against us,

People: God transforms enemies into sisters and brothers.

Leader: We gather, as God's people, hungering for healing and hope, knowing that even when life is no picnic,

People: God prepares a feast for us.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #292 (NCH)

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION -

People: Lord, you are our guiding light. But when our world grows dim, when tragedy strikes, we confess that we tend to retreat from faith. We may lose our way, our vision clouded by anger or gloom. We fall back to our former ways because we may not know any other way to respond. Help us in our confusion. By your Holy Spirit, gift us with your holy strength to hold fast to what you

have taught us. So that, whatever difficulties we face, we stand strong, one church, your people, faithfully facing the darkness together, lit from within by your wisdom and hope.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 7-16

Liturgist

2 Timothy 3:1-17

SERMON Ways of Finding Meaning

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #423 (NCH)

"Great Is Your Faithfulness"

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"

OFFERTORY

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.

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

This is the Table where we find faith.

Those who have the faith the size of a mustard seed are welcome here.

Those who know the faith of our ancestors are welcome here.

Those who think they have no faith are welcome here.

Christ has enough faith for all of us to share.

This is a Table not that unlike the Table that Christ gathered his disciples around so many years ago. It was a simple Table with food that strengthened and drink that quenched.

It was a simple Table of friends, new and old.

It was a Table where truth was alluded to and spoken,

where forgiveness was given even before it was necessary, where grace was embodied.

It was a Table that would change all Tables moving forward.

As we gather around this Table, the faith of all those who have gone before us join in company.

It is enough to hold those of us up who don't think we have enough and to humble those of us who think we have it figured out.

This is the Table Christ invites us to when the steps of faith are so dim.

This is a Table that invites us when we can't find the first step.

This is a Table that invites us when we are afraid of the first step.

Eucharistic Prayer

Christ is here. God's Spirit is with us.

**Here we lift our hearts to God
and give thanks to God!**

God called us to be of God,
to have faith in ourselves and in others,
and yet we can't yet know how to do that all day
every day

because we are not God.

This is the crazy thing about God.

Regardless of whether or not we have faith,
God sent a person, a child, to be with us,
born with his body screaming for justice,
for a different way, for a different path.

He calls us back to faith again and again.

Therefore, we can do nothing else but give you thanks
for your many, many gifts, O God.

The Consecration

We give you thanks that Jesus,
having faith in those he gathered around a similar
table,
gave himself to the authorities for his death.
And so that they might remember and know how
God's Bread gives strength,
he took common bread and made it holy,
as he takes common people and makes us holy.
To remember, he asks us to repeat his act again and
again, as he did, by saying: Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

We cannot live by bread alone.
And so he took the cup as he did the bread.
And he poured it so we might remember the sight
and the sound.
And he shared it among us saying:
This is faith made new,
faith you wouldn't even know how to ask for,
faith that will surprise you,
faith that will sustain you.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.
We break bread and we drink wine
giving thanks, for the love and forgiveness of Jesus
Christ,
for the promise of new life, for the faith to hope anew!

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The body of Christ, the living bread.

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear God, we thank you for all you have given:

your word, your son, your presence in our lives.

Guide our steps as we move throughout our days,

your children, your disciples of compassion. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #304 (NCH)

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Cross the Wide Missouri”

Portions adapted from: LiturgyLink, Discipleship Ministries, Leah Kabira, Richard Einerson, Rev. Amy Pospichal. Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Larry Kalajainen and his teachings at the Maine School of Ministry.

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Cyndy Egan, **Liturgist**
- Lucy Simonds & Joann Bean, **Deacons of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Song Leader**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Women’s Fellowship, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, Nov 6, 1-3pm, Barn
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Nov 6, 10am, Barn
- Women’s Fellowship meets, Nov 7, 10- 12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Pastor Scott Hatfield providing Worship Service, Sept. 9
- Finance Meeting, Nov 10, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, Nov 10, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Nov 13, 10am, Barn
- Women’s Fellowship meets, Nov 14, 10- 12pm, Barn

<u>Pastoral Care Services</u>	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
<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>Deacons of the week</u>	Lucy Simonds Joann Bean	207-864-5234 207-670-5000