



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

10:00 AM

**Meditation:**

*The tombs of renowned men and women are famous for the bodies they hold; but the tomb of Christ is famous because it holds none.*

— P.K. Satheesh Kunjumon

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*“Holy Forever”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader & People**

Leader: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God’s love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

**People: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us.  
Christ is risen!**

Leader: In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come. The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

**People: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us.  
Christ is risen!**

Leader: God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory! Exalt God's holy name!

**People: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us.  
Christ is risen!**

## INVOCATION

\*GREENING OF THE CROSS #229 (NCH)

*"Were You There?"*

\*GATHERING HYMN #233 (NCH)

*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**People: Holy Love, in every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end. May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you,**

and to end the ways in which we are  
complacent and complicit in the world.  
Empower us to leave those things in the tomb  
and follow your trail.

Jesus, keep us on the road of abundant and  
transformed life as revived and encouraged  
participants in your resurrected and glorified  
body. Grant us grace when the realities of life  
overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire  
us in the past.

For the newness of life, we pray. Have mercy  
on us, Holy One. Amen.

*Silent reflection on these words*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

**Liturgist**

SERMON    The Ending That Wasn't

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #237 (NCH)

*"I Come to the Garden Alone"*

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: Don & Susie Welch, Corinne Morton, Tony MacNaughton, 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 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 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.

## 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

On the night of betrayal, denial, and desertion, Jesus prepared his disciples for life beyond the tomb. He demonstrated with wine and bread what he would later perform in his flesh and blood.

**Jesus wanted them to remember and to understand his solidarity and his sacrifice.**

Jesus still prepares a place for each and all of us at this table. Will you come?

**In awe and wonder, humility and thanksgiving, we come to the table to feast with the Risen One.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

You anointed your child, Jesus,  
with the Holy Spirit and power,  
and he went about doing good  
and healing all who were oppressed.  
He was put to death, hung on a tree,

but you raised him on the third day,  
and allowed him to appear, first to Mary Magdalene  
and then to your other chosen witnesses.  
So now we praise you within the gates of justice  
and raise our glad songs of victory  
for you have become our savior  
and hide our lives in Christ in glory.

### **The Consecration**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. And he said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of these mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood, for we are called to be saints and bring the world to

Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at the heavenly banquet.

### **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**

Holy One, thank you for this feast at your table. As we receive bread and cup, may we encounter your grace and be filled with your love. May we go forward from this table with great joy, ever seeking your resurrecting presence among us and discerning your call for us to be present for our neighbors in the world. By your spirit, we pray.

**Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the Highest!**

\*CLOSING HYMN #240 (NCH)

*“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”*

\*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Goodness of God”

*Portions adapted from: Worship Ways, Laughing Bird Ministries*

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Kathy Brittain, **Liturgist**
- Joann Bean, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Song Leader**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Tim & Sarah Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Mahjong in the Barn, April 6, 1-3pm, Barn
- Finance Mtg, April 6, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Winter Women’s Social, April 10, 10am -12pm, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Council Meeting, April 13, 4pm, East Room & Zoom

<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>Deacon of the week</u>	Joann Bean	207-670-5000