



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Meditation:

“The [Thanksgiving] Address is ... long. ... You could be passive and just let the words and the time flow by, but each call asks for the response: ‘Now our minds are one.’ You have to concentrate; you have to give yourself to the listening. It takes effort ... My own students profess to cherish the opportunity to share this experience of the Thanksgiving Address, and yet it never fails that one or a few comment that it goes on too long. ‘Poor you,’ I sympathize. ‘What a pity that we have so much to be thankful for.’ ”

-Robin Wall Kimmerer

April 26, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Thank God I Do”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Thanksgiving Address of the Haudenosaunee)

Leader: Today we have gathered, and when we look upon the faces around us, we see that the cycles of life continue.

People: We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things.

Leader: So now let us bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

People: Now our minds are one.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (**Un**sion)

Almighty God, reveal yourself to us in today's readings, both Biblical and indigenous. Give us ears to hear your voice, eyes that see you here among us, and hearts that are willing to follow where you lead. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #28 (NCH)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

PRAYERS For God's Creation, from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we

probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, who opens thy hand and fills all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy lovingkindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou gives, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 104
John 1:1-4

Liturgist

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #72 (PH)

"The Spacious Firmament"

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, 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.

From The Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer

Dear God, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve thy children: Look with pity upon the sorrows of these thy servants for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of thy goodness, lift up thy countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

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

THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING

We have been given so much, including this church where we come to worship and learn, with hearts filled with gratitude, let us give generously.

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Lord, we know that every good and perfect gift comes from you. We pray that the gifts of time, talent and treasure we have offered today will work for the good of the world, so that your love will be known not just in word but in action. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #419 (NCH)

“Now Thank We All Our God”

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

We now arrive at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it is not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greeting and thanks in their own way. **And now our minds are one.**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us, and remain with us always. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Let It Be a Hallelujah”

*Today’s service comes from and is based on Braiding Sweetgrass, the chapter entitled “Allegiance to Gratitude,” written by Robin Wall Kimmerer, and from the Episcopal Church’s Book of Common Prayer

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

- Sarah Johnson for **leading worship service**
- Linda Caspar, **Liturgist**
- Joanne Bean, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Tim & Sarah, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

~Next Week:

- Pastor Scott Hatfield leading Worship Communion Service, May 3
- Mahjong in the Barn, May 4, 1-3pm

<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> <u>Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of week</u>	Joann Bean	207-670-5000

All are invited to a special Mother's Day Potluck Brunch on Sunday, May 10 at 10 am in the Barn. Bring a passing dish and a friend and join us. This is sponsored by the Deacons and will be in lieu of Sunday Service.

Hope to see you there.

Any questions please contact Nancy Z.

