



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:00 AM

Meditation:

When sheep grow blind, it is only wolves that rejoice.

-Matshona Dhliwayo

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Sunshine on My Shoulders"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter
with thanksgiving and praise!

People: **The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.**

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction not fear and timidity.

People: **Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts us with power and strength, love and compassion, hope and peace.**

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days of my life. Let us dwell in God's presence forever!**

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #73 (NCH)

"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

CALL TO CONFESSION

People: **Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm when you require more from us. Our words and our attitudes can reflect more apathy than care.**

We lie down and become stuck when you would lead us to more fertile ground, new ways of being.

We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to do your will and to love with our lives. Lead us in the fullness and abundance of life in Christ. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

John 10:1-10

Liturgist

SERMON Zonder the Shepherd

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #247 (NCH)

"My Shepherd Is the Living God"

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.

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

"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

May the God of gates be with you!

And also with you!

God calls us to open our hearts to others,
for they are filled to overflowing with grace.

Every day, let us rejoice in the Restorer of our lives.

We sing glad songs to the One who leads us.

Eucharistic Prayer

You watched over creation, God of patience,
as it emerged out of nothingness: meadows where
sheep could rest, still pools of water.

You shaped us in your divine likeness, anointing us
with Spirit's breath of life, so we could wander the
garden by your side.

But we followed other voices.

Day by day, you sent prophets to us, who challenged
us to lead God-centered lives, but we devoted
ourselves to that life which is empty and bitter.

So then you sent Jesus, shaped in human likeness, to us, so we would know you are with us.

With those who walk your paths,
with those who long to find their way,
we offer glad and generous hearts to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Guardian of our souls.
All creation praises you day after day after day.
Hosanna in the highest!**

The Consecration

You lead us to this Table where we want for nothing,
for your Spirit transforms everyday foods into a
sacred feast.

Your bread and cup comfort us, nourishing us so we
might be together in everything with our siblings.

The broken bread strengthens us to feed those who
are hungry.

Your grace overflows into us so we may offer voices
of compassion and hope to the oppressed.

We remember that on the night he gave himself up
for us, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave
it to his disciples. 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.

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

Day by day, God will lead us:

**to those pools of peace where we can
gather with our friends and strangers.**

Day by day, Jesus will call us:

**to give ourselves in service,
to anoint others with hope.**

Day by day, the Spirit shows us:

**the people we might be,
the community we might become. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #252 (NCH)

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"I am not ok"

Portions adapted from: Worship Ways, Thom Shuman

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Liturgist**
- Claire Chase, **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, May 4, 1-3pm, Barn
- Women's Fellowship, May 8, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Finance Meeting, May 11, 3:15pm, East Rm & Zoom
- Council Meeting, May 1, 4pm, East Room & Zoom

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.



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