



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
250th Anniversary – Independence Day

July 5, 2026

10:00 AM

Meditation:

*“No nation is ever taller than when on its knees. I submit
that we can best honor America by rededicating ourselves to God
and the American dream.”*

- Rev. Billy Graham

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Down to the River to Pray”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 96).

Leader & People

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song;

People: **sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Leader: Declare God's glory among the nations;

People: **tell all the people of God's marvelous works.**

Leader: Say among the nations: The Lord is sovereign!

People: **God will judge the peoples with equity.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #440 (PH)

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

CALL TO CONFESSION

People: **Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.**

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as

**agents of your reconciling love in Jesus
Christ.**

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 10:12 –13, 17–21

Galatians 5:13 –26

Liturgist

SERMON A Christian Patriotism

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #437 (PH)

“My Country Tis of Thee”

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, 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 son, 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

"God Bless America"

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

**Holy God, you alone are Majesty,
you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereign.**

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.

Eucharistic Prayer

Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests. Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home.

In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

Faithful God, loving God, your majesty shines forth in weakness. Your excellency is revealed to infants. Your sovereignty reigns from a cross.

Yours, O God, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, now and forever.

The Consecration

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, and Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom-- freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear. Let us know the shalom that you first showed to us.

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

We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #593 (NCH)

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“This Land is Your Land”

Portions adapted from: ELCA, Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church USA, Call to Worship / Worship Times, The Ministry Council.



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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Sue Downes, **Liturgist**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith & Sue Downes, **Music**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Linda & Nancy & Mary, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, July 6, 1-3pm
- Strawberry Festival in Oquossoc, July 9, 10am-3pm
- Women's Fellowship, July 10, 10am-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Gretchen Legler leading worship service, July 12
- Annual Meeting directly after worship service, July 12th (no coffee hour)



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