



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Meditation:**

Genocide is Biblical. Loving your enemy is Biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Slavery is Biblical. Chain breaking is Biblical

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Patriarchy is Biblical. Counter-cultural elevation of women  
is Biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Retributive violence is Biblical. Grace-filled restoration is  
Biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Segregation is Biblical. Unity is Biblical.

BUT ONLY ONE IS CHRISTLIKE.

Christ transforms, not the Bible.

*-Jordan Harrell, author*

August 9, 2026

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

## RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*"Beatus Homo"*  
Orlando di Lasso

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls together the scattered flock,  
searching for all who have wandered away.

**People: We have strayed from God's purposes and yet  
resist the idea that we must be rescued.**

Leader: God, in the Christ, calls us to be renewed and  
strengthened, to share with the Chosen One in  
building God's Kingdom here and now.

**People: We come to this time and place for renewed  
vision deepened intent, and empowerment to  
act.**

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Monarch of all worlds and Judge of all who share this  
planet, we know You are with us here. We sense the  
majesty and power with which You rule over all things.  
We also claim the warmth of Your love, which reaches out  
to the least and the lost with good news. May we be  
participants in Your grace and instruments of Your eternal  
purposes. Grant us the capacity to share without counting  
the cost; through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN #436 (NCH)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader:       The God Who loves us also calls us to account.  
                  We have not always been faithful, or honest  
                  with ourselves and God. Let us turn away  
                  from what has been, to embrace what God calls  
                  us to be. Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**What shall we do, God, when life overwhelms us and we  
are afraid to risk the little of value we see in ourselves?  
We confess that we have hidden our talents and protected  
ourselves. Your expectations of us overwhelm us and we  
feel helpless. We don't want to feel this way or to try to  
hide from You. Help us to climb out of the depths of fear  
and despair and to be faithful in our use of whatever You  
entrust to us.**

*Silent reflection on these words*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader:       God has not destined us for wrath, but to  
                  obtain salvation through Jesus, the Christ.  
                  When we come in penitence and trust, we open  
                  the lines of communication and blessing. God  
                  forgives us. Live now as forgiven people,  
                  united by faith to be faithful disciples of Jesus,  
                  the Christ.

People:       **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:1-46

SERMON     “What it means to follow Jesus”

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #172 (NCH)

*“Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult”*

## 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: Peter and Nini Christensen, 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, 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”*

## **SERVICE OF GIVING**

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*“This is My Father’s World”*

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)**

**We bring before You, O God, this accounting of our  
faithfulness. You have entrusted much to us. We return  
some of it for the work of Your church. May this  
congregation become more and more a source of hope for  
each of us and for all we meet. Grant us imagination and  
generosity to use all You entrust to us in ways that build  
up rather than destroy; in the name of Jesus, the Christ.  
Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #537 (NCH)

*“Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed”*

THE COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: As we continue on life’s journey, God entrusts much to our careful management.

**People: We go forth in the spirit of Jesus, the Christ, equipping ourselves with faith and love, loving God so much that we love nothing else too much.**

Leader: God leads us in paths of righteousness and justice; Christ meets us in all who need our help; goodness and mercy follow us all our days.

**People: We go forth with the blessing of God, fearing God enough that we fear nothing else at all.**

**ALL: Amen.**

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*“All Praise To You My God”*

Thomas Tallis

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

- Rev. Jack Zappulla **for leading our worship service**
- Zenna Inness, **Liturgist**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith & Rebecca Lowering, **Music Leader**
- Tim & Sarah Johnson, **for providing Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Handbell rehearsal, August 10, 9am, Sanctuary
- Finance Committee Meeting, August 10, 3:15p, East Rm & Zoom
- Council Meeting, August 10, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women's Fellowship & Prayer Shawl gather, August 14, 10-12p, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Rev. Stan Wheeler providing worship, August 16
- Mahjong in the Barn, August 17, 1-3pm
- Deacons' Meeting, August 17, 3pm, East Room & Zoom

|                                       |                              |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <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><br><u>Deacons:</u> | Claire Chase<br>Lucy Simonds | 207-712-0490<br>207-462-2101 |
| <u>Deacon of week</u>                 | Nancy Zambraski              | 207-864-2250                 |