



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

“The human capacity for burden is like bamboo – far more flexible than you’d ever believe at first glance.”

-Jodi Picoult

August 16, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Imagine”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 67)

Leader: God be gracious to us and bless us and make
his face to shine upon us, that your way may
be known upon earth, your saving power
among all nations.

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

People: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase; God has blessed us.

People: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Leader: “Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.” Let us pray.

All: God of every time and place, may your Spirit move among us so that the words we hear and the words we speak will be to your glory, will lead towards justice, and will reveal to us your salvation and deliverance. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #485 (NCH)

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

CALL TO CONFESSION (Romans 11:32)

The apostle Paul says that we are “imprisoned in disobedience,” but that God is merciful to all. We live amid the tension of knowing that the Lord is quick to forgive and

recognizing that we need to be forgiven. We also live amid the tension of knowing that, through Christ, all things are being made new and recognizing that our broken world needs to be transformed.

From the discomfort of this tension, let us offer a prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, your world cries out. The fruits of our disobedience are harming your creation. You tasked us to be good stewards of your creation and we have fallen short. You challenged us to love God and love our neighbor, and we have failed to show that love. You promise to bring all people joyfully together in a house of prayer on your holy mountain. We find ways to stay apart. Bring us together, O Lord. Empower us with a spirit of love for you and love for all our neighbors. Help us live our lives in service to you so that all your children will know your peace. Forgive us when we fall short. And continue to transform your world, leading us to your promised kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Liturgist

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Liturgist

Matthew 15: 10-28

SERMON Sometimes Jesus Is a Jerk

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #488 (NCH)

"Be Still My Soul"

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

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God has called his people together from the beginning, equipping each of us with talent, blessing each of us with gifts, and being a part of each of our stories. As we bring forward our offerings of time and talents, as we give back from what we have been given, and as we continue to share our testimony with one another, we express our gratitude to God. Let us bring forth our offerings with thanksgiving.

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Holy God, you tell us that “offerings will be accepted on your altar, for your house shall be called a house of

**prayer.” Thank you for all that you have given us.
Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and
our lives to you. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN #492 (NCH)**

“I Would Be True”

CHARGE and BENEDICTION (Psalm 67, Isaiah 56)

Let us hear once again the words from Psalm 67: “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way be known upon the earth, your saving power among all nations.”

And as we go from this time together, may the same God who invites all people to God’s holy mountain continue to bring you joy, may the same Holy Spirit whose power moved through Jesus to heal the Canaanite woman’s daughter continue to guide and keep you, and may the light of Christ that has been shining from the beginning continue to shine through each of you until we are all gathered together once again.

Go in peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Blackbird”

Today’s liturgy is adapted from Thomas J. Carrico, Jr. and is used by permission.

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- Rev. Rufus Lusk, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**
- Tim & Sarah Johnson, **for providing Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, August 17, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, August 17, 3pm, East Room & Zoom

~Next Week:

- Gretchen Legler provides worship on, August 23
- Women's Fellowship meets August 28, 10-12pm, Barn

*If you have a need for pastoral care, please get in touch with a Deacon or Scott Hatfield. All numbers are listed below.
If you are in need of pastoral care at Franklin Hospital, Rev. Stan Wheeler may be called and, if he is available, will attend to your pastoral needs.*

<i>Pastor Scott Hatfield</i>	207-670-8141
<i>Rev. Stan Wheeler</i>	207-491-5824

Deacons:

<i>Lucy Simonds</i>	207-462-2101
<i>Claire Chase</i>	207-712-0490
<i>Linda Caspar</i>	207-670-5073
<i>Fred Dubay</i>	207-864-5234
<i>Nancy Zambraski</i>	207-864-2250
<i>Joann Bean</i>	207-670-5000

<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>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490
<u>Deacons:</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101

<u>Deacon of week</u>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073
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