



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

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

**Meditation:**

"Forgiveness is a way to unburden oneself from the constant pressure of rewriting the past."

*-Nora Gallagher*

September 13, 2026

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*"Siciliano"*

J.S. Bach/Arr. Lani Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 103)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

**People: Bless God's holy name.**

Leader: God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love.

**People:        Bless God's holy name.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #73 (NCH)**

*"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"*

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Gracious and Eternal God, open us to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Cause your Holy Spirit to move among us. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed by your steadfast love. Amen.**

*Silent reflection on these words*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. All who have committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We have been redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. Amen.

## WORD OF GOD

### SCRIPTURE

Psalm 103: 1-13

**Liturgist**

Romans 14:1-12

**Liturgist**

Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON     Forgiveness Is Hard Work

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #436 (NCH)

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

## 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, Jessica House, 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

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

*"An Offering"*  
Jason Krug

### 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, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #448 (NCH)**

*"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"*

**CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

God does not abandon us because God's love is steadfast. May this steadfast love inspire all our relationships as we leave this house of worship. May we be knit together in God's love, bound as a community of Christ, guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

*"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"*

John B. Dykes/Arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Today's liturgy is adapted from Teri McDowell Ott and is used with permission.

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- **Kathy Brittain, Liturgist**
- Fred Dubay, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith & Sue Downes, **Music Leader**
- Erin Smith & Mary Richards, **for providing Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Finance Meeting, September 14, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, September 14, 4:00pm, East Room & Zoom

**~Next Week:**

- Rev. Stan Wheeler leading worship service, Sept. 20
- Mahjong in the Barn, Sept. 21, 1-3pm
- Women's Fellowship meets Sept. 25, 10-12, 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.*

**Pastor Scott Hatfield      207-670-8141**

**Rev. Stan Wheeler      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>     | Fred Dubay            | 207-864-5234 |