



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

A small group of thoughtful people could change the world.
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

-Margaret Mead

September 20, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"I Choose Love"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 145)

Leader: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised

People: God's greatness is unsearchable.

Leader: From generation to generation, we sing of your
righteousness.

**People: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to
 anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

***GATHERING HYMN #290 (NCH)**

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Eternal God, you know our hearts and minds. Bless our
time together that in reading, hearing and reflecting on
your Word together, we may be changed. We surrender
this time to you and ask for your blessing upon it. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

God loves us and calls us by name. Too frequently, we stake
our claim on that tenderness and use it as a weapon against
others, forgetting that God’s love does not build walls but
knocks them down. Let us set down our burdens and our
defenses as we confess our sins in front of
God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Almighty God, when we follow the path of Jonah and
allow our anger and frustration to cut us off from others,
you sit next to us and call us back to your way of mercy,
love and redemption. It is one thing to accept these gifts
for ourselves; it is another to extend them
to those who frustrate us. Forgive us for our anger,
resentment, and desire to hoard. We lay these impulses at
your feet and ask that you create a new heart within us,**

one modeled after your steadfast love and generosity. Help us to see the world in new ways. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God.

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Liturgist

Liturgist

SERMON God Isn't FAIR

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #492 (NCH)**

"I Would Be True"

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

By the grace of God, we are saved — today and every day. Let us embrace this gift and respond with generosity. In gratitude, let us present our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You"

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)

**Almighty God, we offer you these gifts and our hearts
alongside them. May they be blessed to do your bidding.
May our expectations of what is right and what is wise
always be governed by your unruly love. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #493 (NCH)

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

My prayer for us today, Beloved of God, is that our eyes are open to the people we discount. May we humbly accept that God's love does not follow our logic. May we be freed from the burden of our resentments. May the Holy Spirit create a new work within us so that we can work to bring about the kingdom of God, here on earth.

In the name of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, I bless you. Go and be at peace.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Be Ok"

Today's liturgy is adapted from Rose Schrott Taylor, 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**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Liturgist**
- Nancy Zambraski, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**
- Kathy Brittain & Mary Richards, **providing Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler leading worship service, Sept. 20
- Mahjong in the Barn, Sept. 21, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, Sept. 21, 3pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women's Fellowship meets Sept. 25, 10-12, Barn

~Next Week:

- Gretchen Legler leads worship service, Sept. 27

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:

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