



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

“Never once did Jesus scan the room for the best example of holy living and send that person out to tell others about him. He always sent stumblers and sinners.”

- Nadia Bolz-Weber,
*Accidental Saints: Finding
God in All the Wrong People*

September 27, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Allegro from Fantasia in C Major”
Georg Philipp Telemann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INVOCATION (**Unison**)

Living Water, we delight in your presence. You sustain us in dry moments and seasons. Quench our thirst for peace and restoration. Let your Spirit flow among us. Send a river of forgiveness, power, and encouragement to this community assembled here today. We come to worship you and declare that you are with us...and we are with you. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 25)

Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We trust you!

People: Make your ways known to us. Teach us your truths.

Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We follow you!

People: Lead us in your ways. Your path liberates and saves.

Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our souls. We worship you!

People: Guide us in humility and goodness. Praise the Holy One.

***GATHERING HYMN #86 (NCH)**

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

INVOCATION (Unison)

Living Water, we delight in your presence. You sustain us in dry moments and seasons. Quench our thirst for peace and restoration. Let your Spirit flow among us. Send a river of forgiveness, power, and encouragement to this

community assembled here today. We come to worship you and declare that you are with us...and we are with you. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

As humans, we are imperfect. God seeks not to punish us for our doubts and our shortcomings, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us now make our confession together. Please join me in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious and Loving God, despite knowing of your generosity and ever-present love, we often grumble and complain, just like the Israelites did with Moses. When we suffer, we seek someone to blame. We find fault with one another. We find fault with you. Teach us to mend these spaces—the spaces within our own hearts, the spaces between us and our perceived enemies, the spaces between us and you. Teach us to Love us as we struggle. Remind us that you are with us even through tests, trials, and disappointments. Remind us to pray for what we need most. Help us be on the lookout for the unlikely places from which the living water of your love might spring. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

The Holy One meets us with compassion and care even when we are grumpy and afraid and not at our best. Even when we stumble and sin. When we are most in need is the time when God's miracles are mostly likely to be revealed.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

Liturgist

Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #70 (NCH)

"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The sharing of our abundance, whatever it is we have to give, is like living water poured out for the quenching of spiritual thirst and for the real bodily needs of those in our communities. When we share our resources of time, talent, and money, we demonstrate our faith and trust in God's provision and in our collective power. If Moses, with the help of God, can bring water out of a dry parched land, so can we bring comfort and aid to those in need. When we give, we replicate the Holy One's generosity and creativity. When we offer ourselves, we magnify the blessings the Holy

One has bestowed upon us. Let us give in a spirit of joy and hope.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"A Joyful Song"
Hugh Livingston, Jr.

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

Wonderful God, please sanctify these gifts, amplify them for your people, and replicate them for your kingdom. May they be as living water to meet the needs and hopes of the world and community in which we belong.

*CLOSING HYMN #84 (NCH)

"This Is the Day"

BENEDICTION

Go from this time of worship like streams of water, offering your life sustaining generosity and strength of spirit to all you meet. Saturate every encounter this week with the goodness and abundance of God.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Fantasia on Come, Thou Fount"
Tune: NETTLETON/Arr. John Purifoy

** Note of Thanks: Portions of this service were adapted from the work of Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, published on the UCC Worship Ways site.

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

- Gretchen Legler **for leading worship service**
- Joann Bean, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Sue Downes, **Music Leader**
- Marcia Baker & Mary Richards, **providing Coffee Hour**

~Next Week:

- Pastor Scott Hatfield leads Communion service, October 4
- Mahjong in the Barn, October 5, 1-3pm
- Women Fellowship, October 9, 10am-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>	Joann Bean	207-670-5000