



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

“Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.”

— *Wendell Berry*

October 18, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE.

“Trust in You”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song! Everyone, even
the rocks and trees, sing!

People: **Let us shout out in praise!**

Leader: God does great things for us. See God's amazing works all around us.

People: **Great is the Lord!**

Leader: Tell of God's wonders! Share stories of God's glory.

People: **Let us worship the Lord!**

*GATHERING HYMN #307 (NCH)

"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Lord, as we come to hear your Word for us, still in us all that distracts us. Open our ears to hear your Word for us, read and proclaimed. And open our hearts to be transformed to be your people, to love and serve with faithful obedience. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been the faithful disciples you call us to be. We have not remembered who we are. We are distracted by glittering gold. We are mesmerized by fame and fortune. We turn a blind eye to systems that perpetuate injustice. We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those who bear unfair burdens. We close our hearts and imagine empathy to be weakness. Forgive us Lord. Remind us that we are yours, citizens of the kingdom of God. Give us courage to be kingdom builders here and now, showing mercy and grace in a

world in deep need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, which we offer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news. God loves you. Even in our imperfection, God loves us and won't let us go. Know that you are forgiven and made new, sent forth to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen.

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 33:12-23

Liturgist

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Liturgist

Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON It's All God's

***HYMN OF RESPONSE #223 (NCH)**

"What Wonderous Love Is This"

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: David Flaherty, 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 give back in gratitude for all we have been given. All around us are the wonders of God's love and grace. Tucked within us are gifts to be shared, our talents, our interests, our love and service to others. As we come to the time of offering, we are invited to consider how we will

respond to the generosity of God, how we will share our time, talents, and treasures with one another and with the world. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"O Grant Us, God, A Little Space"

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)

Generous God, all that we have comes from you. We give back in gratitude. May our gifts become beacons of hope and doors of justice and may they open arms of love until your kingdom comes. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #28 (NCH)

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

Friends, we cannot stay here. Christ calls us to go out there.
Go, be the church in the world.
Go, marvel at what God is doing in the midst of this world.
Go, love and serve each other as if this were the kingdom of heaven here and now.

Go, knowing that God goes with you, before you to lead the way, behind you to uphold you, and always beside you as a friend. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Love Like This”

Today’s liturgy adapted from Rae Watson, Presbyterian Outlook.

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- Zenna Inness, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**
- Joann Bean & Bob Silvia, **providing Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Rangeley Ringers rehearsal, Oct 19, 9-10:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, Oct 19, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons’ Meeting, Oct 19, 3pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women’s Fellowship meets Oct 23, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Jodie Gunther provides worship, Oct 25, 10am
- Rangeley Ringers rehearsal, Oct 26, 9-10:30am, Sanctuary
- Women’s Fellowship meets Oct 30, 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.

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>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073