



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation:

Your life as a Christian should make nonbelievers question their disbelief in God.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

October 25, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Variations on an Original Theme", Op. 36 "Enigma": Variation IX."

Nimrod by Edward Elgar

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, friends, gather in this sacred space.

All: We come to love, and to be loved.

One: Come hear the ancient scriptures.

All: We come to hear, and to be heard.

One: Come sing hymns of praise.

All: We raise our voices in song and prayer.

One: Come, friends, let us gather in God's presence.

All: We gather in expectant joy, for God is here!

*GATHERING HYMN #400 (NCH)

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy One, we open our hearts, our souls, and our minds to you. Be with us now. Speak to us in the stillness of this sanctuary. Lead us to your kingdom of love: a world of justice and peace, a place where mercy and compassion reigns. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God of Love, God of Mystery, God of Mercy, you call us to live as people of God. Through the ancient texts, you invite us into relationship with you—a relationship that encompasses our whole beings. And then, through your Son Jesus, you speak a new commandment, that we love one another. Let us pause now and reflect: When have we failed to place God first in our lives? When have we failed to give love? And when have we rejected love offered to us?

We confess our sins to God as we pray together the Prayer of Confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God, there are times when your commandment to love seems impossible! How can we love faithfully in a world that continually pulls us toward greed, fear and division? How can we love when hateful words crowd our everyday lives, when deceit and deception seem to be the order of the day? How can we find compassion toward those with whom we disagree and struggle to find even neutral ground? How can we be Love when distrust and anger rise in our hearts?

Silent reflection on these words

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

Friends, how can we love fully and faithfully when the current of this world pushes us in the opposite direction? The answer, of course, is that we can't do it by ourselves. But hear this Good News: we can do *all* things—we can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things with the love of God that flows through us. May we remember that the Spirit of God dwells within us, and the spark of God's love burns brightly when we recognize God in the faces of our neighbors—and also in ourselves. May we rest into the assurance that God is always with us, and may we trust that God will always lead us to paths of justice and mercy. Amen.

WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 110:1-7

Liturgist

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Matthew 22:34-46

Liturgist

SERMON "Foundations of Our Faith"

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #439 (NCH)

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Friends, the gifts we have received from God are beyond measure. Let us join together now to acknowledge those gifts, and to give back a portion of that treasure. For our gifts, given in love, enable this church to be a beacon of hope and transformation to the world.

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)**

Holy One, accept these gifts, given faithfully. Help guide their use to love the neighbor: for the ones in our community who feel helpless, let us bring assistance; for the friendless, let us bring companionship; for those

without hope, let us bring joy. And in this way, may the use of these gifts be acceptable to you. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #386 (NCH)**

"The Church's One Foundation"

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

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

- Jodie Gunther **for leading worship service**
- Rick Baker, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**

~This Week:

- Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal, Oct 26, 9-10:30am, Sanctuary
- Women's Fellowship meets Oct 30, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Rev. Scott Hatfield leads communion service, Nov 1
- Rangeley Ringers Rehearsal, Nov 2, 9-10:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, Nov 2, 1-3pm, Barn
- Women's Fellowship meets Nov 6, 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