



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

December 10, 2023

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

Traditional French Melody/Arr. Molly Ijames

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & **All**

Leader: With what shall we come before the Lord?  
What shall we bring into the presence of our  
God. As an expression of our worship and  
praise?

**All:** **Shall we bring him all that we own- Our  
finest possessions, our life-savings, Our**

**investments and property? Would God be satisfied if we bought everything we possess?**

**Leader:** No, that's not what God is looking for.  
God has told you what is good, and what he expects of you:

**All:**           **To do justice.**  
                  **To love mercy.**  
                  **To walk humbly before Him.**

**INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Holy God,  
You confound the worlds, wisdom  
In giving your kingdom to the lowly  
And the pure in heart.  
Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice  
And perseverance in striving for peace,  
That by words and deeds  
The world may see the promise of our kingdom,  
Revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
One God, forever and ever.**

## **CELEBRATION OF ADVENT**

**Reader:**  
Each Sunday leading up to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we reflect on a theme that centers us as we

wait with eager expectation for the glory of God to be revealed. This Sunday, we center on “Peace.”

**Unison:**

**The prophet Isaiah announced God’s coming to a people exiled in a parched wilderness. He declared that God’s redemption would make a highway in the desert and make the rough places plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek God, the shepherd.**

**Let us light the candle of peace.**

(candle lit)

Shine on us, O God of justice;  
Guide our path through gloom of night;  
Bear within us Wisdom’s glory;  
Come to us, O Christ the Light.

**SUNG RESPONSE**

**One Candle Is Lit**

Come, surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare  
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.  
One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

\*GATHERING HYMN #120 (PH)

*"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

CONFESSION OF SIN/ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Psalm 15:2-4

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of His love. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader:           Lead a life of your calling- with humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Amen**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20

**Liturgist**

SERMON Embrace Christmas

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #110 (PH)

*"Come O Come Emmanuel"*

## 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:** Victor Borko, Forrest Stephens, Kit Caspar, Kris Nozal, Anne Crump, Jeff & Carol Ellinwood, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Erin Smith's parents Carol & Dan Perkins, Patrick Egan, Pastor Scott Hatfield and Dave Walker's brother, Peter Walker who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### 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

### OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC *"Once in Royal David's City"*  
Traditional Carol/Arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

\*CLOSING HYMN (Insert)

*"There's a Song in the Air"*

\*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"The First Nowell"*

Traditional English Carol/Arr. Lloyd Larson

(Please Be Seated)

The trimming of the Sanctuary tree

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

- Rev. Tony MacNaughton, **Leading Worship Service**
- Janice Bredeau & Lily Stevens, **Liturgist & Candle**
- Zenna Inness, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Tim & Sarah Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Finance Committee Meeting, Dec 11, 2:45pm, Zoom & East Room
- Council Meeting, Dec 11, 4pm, Zoom & East Room
- Piano Lessons with Erin, Dec 11, 12, 14, & 15, Sanctuary Deacon of

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~Next Week:

- Stan Wheeler provides Worship, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Deacons' Meeting, Dec 18, 3pm, Zoom & East Room
- Piano Lessons with Erin, Dec 18, 19, 21, 22 Sanctuary

Pastoral Care Services	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
<u>Church Secretary</u>	rangeleyucc@gmail.com	207-864-5966
<u>Minister of Music:</u>	Sue Downes-Borko	207-864-3951
<u>Council President:</u>	Cyndy Egan	207-864-2255
<u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of wk</u>	Zenna Inness	207-864-2614

For 43 years, the Rangeley Friends of the Arts has been sponsoring the annual "Walk to Bethlehem" celebration, this year to be held on Sunday, December 10th. This unique event, which recreates Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, complete with community members costumed as nativity figures, will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Rangeley Inn, then proceed to the Church of the Good Shepherd at 6:00 p.m.

Pageant participants and Carolers/Walkers will walk through the streets of Rangeley, singing and stopping at the churches to ask if there is "any room at the Inn?"

When the participants reach the Church of the Good Shepherd, they will join others in anticipation of the evening's program: a traditional family-oriented Christmas presentation of carols, classical music, and dance.



# There's a Song in the Air 185

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son. Luke 2:7*

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy O'er the won - der - ful birth,  
 3. In the light of that star Lie the a - ges im - pearled;  
 4. We re - joice in the light And we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer And a ba - by's low cry!  
 For the vir - gin's sweet boy Is the Lord of the earth.  
 And that song from a - far Has swept o - ver the world.  
 That comes down through the night From the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ev - 'ry hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing  
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly \*e - van - gel they bring,

For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
 For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
 In the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!  
 And we greet in His cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!

\* Good news.

(segue)

