



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
First Sunday after Epiphany**

January 7, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

"Wherever his light leads, we follow."

--Emmanuel Onimisi, The Faces of Christmas

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"Pat-A-Pan"*

French Carol/Arr. Rodriguez

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: Ascribe to Creator glory and honor!

**People: The Voice of the Holy One hovers over the waters
and speaks creation into being.**

Leader: Ascribe to the Holy One strength and peace!

People: The Voice of the Sovereign One calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

Leader: Ascribe to the Omnipresent One power and gentleness!

People: The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #143 (PH)

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

CALL TO CONFESSION

People: Righteous God, we confess our need of you in every aspect of our lives. Lift us from the valleys of despair and hopelessness. Free us from the societal norms, pressures, and conventions that conflict with or diminish your kingdom. Remind us of our baptismal promises and commitment. Release us from shame and fortify us with grace for transformation and new life.

Time for silent contemplation...

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

Mark 1:4-11

Liturgist
Leader

SERMON The Epiphany

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *“Here at Jordan’s River”*

Music: NOEL NOUVELET/Words: Ruth C. Duck

“Here at Jordan’s river all is washed away.
As God’s reign draws nearer, nothing is the same.
Gone are class and status; gone, degrees and fame.
Grace alone can save us on God’s judgment day.

We at Jordan’s river meet on level ground.
Valleys are uplifted; mountains fall to earth.
None dare trust their lineage, none need doubt their worth.
Still the prophet asks us, “Will you turn around?”

God, reform, renew us; turn us toward your will.
Till our hearts for learning; root us in your work.
May the fruits of action grow from all we’ve heard.
As we lose our old lives, God, be with us still.”

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, Donald Knowles, Susan Tourtillotte's brother-in-law, Earle Tourtillotte, The Gacki family on the passing of Rich Gacki, 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. 22nd.

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"

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC *"Epiphany Road"*

Ben Logan

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you.

Communion Prayer

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

The Words of Institution

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

The Consecration

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Sharing The Bread and the Cup

The body of Christ, the living bread.

The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

COMMUNION MUSIC #343 (NCH)

" Jesus Took the Bread"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through

the waters of the new creation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #584 (NCH)

"I Am the Light of the World"

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Jolly Holiday Medley"

Four Carols Arranged by Penny Rodriguez

Portions adapted from: Worship Ways, Rev. Jane Richards, UMPH

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Worship Service**
- Claire Chase, **Liturgist**
- Joann Bean, **Deacon of the Week**
- TBD, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Finance Committee Meeting, Jan 8, 2:45pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, Jan 8, 4:00pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano Lessons with Erin, Jan 8, 9, 10, 12, Sanctuary, Jan 11, E. Room, 3-5pm

~Next Week:

- Hymn Sing Worship, Jan 14th, 10am, Sanctuary
- Deacons' Meeting, Jan 15, 3:00pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano Lessons with Erin, Jan 15, 16, 17, 19, Sanctuary, Jan 18, E. Room, 3-5pm

Pastoral Care Services	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
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