



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
**Third Sunday After the Epiphany**

January 21, 2024

10:00 AM

*Meditation:*

*"I want you to know that you can stop trying to earn what is already yours: your dignity, your beauty, your lovability."*

*– Nadia Bolz-Weber*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

PRELUDE *"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"*

Tune: GALILEE/Arr. James Pethel

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader & People**

Leader: The Word of the Lord came,

**People: hope for all people cradled in his arms.**

Leader: The Word of the Lord comes,

**People:**        **calling us out of our comfort zones,  
to go where grace is needed most.**

Leader:        The Word of the Lord will come,

**People:**        **gathering all the outsiders and insiders  
into one community of the kingdom.**

## INVOCATION

\*GATHERING HYMN "*The Summons*"

Music: Traditional Scottish/Words: Iona Community

Will you come and follow me  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
In you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
If I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

#### THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (**Unison**)

Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them.

Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

# WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (Unison)

Holy One, We long to know your truth. Prepare our hearts to hear your Word and give us understanding. As we listen to the stories of your ancient people may we be inspired to share our stories of your presence day by day. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Liturgist

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Liturgist

Mark 1:14-20

Leader

### SERMON Fishing for People

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE *"Inspired by Love and Anger"*

Music: Traditional Irish, Arr. Britten/Words: John Bell

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,  
Informed of God's own bias we ask him once again:  
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk  
mind? How long dare vain self interest turn prayer and pity  
blind?"

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different  
age, We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:  
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom  
come? When will the world be generous to all instead of  
some?"

God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?  
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?  
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I  
show?"

Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,  
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and  
wrote, A Saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools  
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

## 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:*** Donald Knowles, Priscilla St. Louis, Kit and Linda  
Caspar, Susan Tourtillotte's brother-in-law, Earle Tourtillotte,  
The Gacki family on the passing of Rich Gacki, Forrest Stephens,  
Kris Nozal, Anne Crump, Jeff & Carol Ellinwood, Bobby &  
Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Erin Smith's parents  
Carol & Dan Perkins, Patrick Egan, and Pastor Scott Hatfield.

### 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 *“Two Fishermen”*

Suzanne Toolan

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 #173 (NCH)

*“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”*

\*THE BENEDICTION

Leader & **People**

Leader: Now, take the word of God into the world.

**People: we will place hope in the arms of others.**

Leader: Now, take the word of Jesus into the world.

**People: We will follow to serve beside him in all the broken places.**

Leader: Now, take the word of the Spirit into the world.

People: **We will bring others near to the kingdom where all are welcome.**

## POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"Humoreske"*

Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904)

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

- Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Les Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Lucy Simonds, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Piano Lessons with Erin, Jan 22, 23, 24, 26, Sanctuary  
Piano Lesson w/ Erin, Jan 25, East Room
- Women's Winter Social, Jan 26, 10a-12p, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Sustainability Team will provide Breakfast, Sunday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>
- Piano Lessons with Erin, Jan 29, 30, 31, Feb 2., Sanctuary. Feb 1 in the East Room.



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