



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

“Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity.”

– Hippocrates

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *“On Eagle’s Wings”*

Michael Joncas/Arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: God comes into a world filled with
uncertainties and darkness

People: God seeks out the voids of belief and
conviction.

Leader: God embraces the wounded and broken.

People: **God knocks down the walls of division and strife.**

Leader: God is the candle shining in the darkness of our days.

People: **God is the light of our lives.**

Leader: God is the one who makes all things new.

People: **Praise be to God, now and forevermore!**

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #177 (NCH)

"God of Change and Glory"

CALL TO CONFESSION

People: Holy God, hear our prayer. You send prophets and savior to help us, to teach us, to raise us, and our response is to question You. You heal someone's beloved, and we ask, "Why not this one too?" You shower food upon some who hunger, and we complain that our stomachs are growling.

Forgive us. Forgive us not for our doubts, but for our limited perspective. Open wide before us the vista of your grace, and the expanse of your love, and the wonder of your healing power. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

Time for silent contemplation...

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:21-28

Liturgist

Mark 1:29-39

Leader

SERMON First Things

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #175 (NCH)

"O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

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 & Linda Caspar, Susan Tourtillotte's brother-in-law, Earle Tourtillotte, 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”

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC *“Bless the Lord, My Soul”*
Taizé Community

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

May God be with you
And also with you.

Lift your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God we love.
We freely give God thanks and praise.

Preface

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy
that we should, in ceaseless joy
Give our thanks and praise to you,
Holy and merciful God,
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise
With the church that is, was, and shall be forever,
We glorify you, joining this unending song:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy...

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy are you, Eternal One.
You sit above, through, and within the circle of the
earth
Setting light into being
Casting the stars in the sky
Founding the evolving earth
And all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power,
And great is your wisdom.
You look upon the lowly

As your most cherished creatures.
You visit upon the downtrodden
With presence, grace, and the promise of eternal
justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus,
Who reached into unexpected places,
Calling women beyond the limits of their times
Equipping men for nurturing love
Welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so, we recall that on the night of betrayal and
desertion,
The light of the world took bread, broke, and gave it
to the disciples, saying:

“This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And, in like manner, after supper,
Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks give it to
them saying,

“This is the cup of the new covenant
poured out for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink of it,
for the remembrance of me.”

Life’s greatest feast before us,
We excitedly proclaim:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

The Consecration

Dear God, you transform.
You transform all that is before you
So that, at the touch of your grace
We are never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.
You bring light to all peoples
Light to the nations
Light into our hearts
Light on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.
Transform, illumine, bless.
Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup
Into the extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing,
Hold us as your own
Renew us as your people
For the sake of the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,
Through Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in
your glorious creation

Both now and forever.
Amen.

Sharing The Bread and the Cup

COMMUNION MUSIC #332 (NCH)

"As We Gather at Your Table"

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.

We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.

May we bask in this glow

Now and forevermore. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Tune: NETTLETON/Words: Rusty Edwards (1955-)

Praise the One who breaks the darkness.

With a liberating light.

Praise the One who frees the prisoners,

Turning blindness into sight.

Praise the one who preached the gospel,

Healing every dread disease,

Calming storms and feeding thousands

With the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children

With a strong yet gentle word.

Praise the One who drove out demons
With a piercing two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand.
From this well comes living water.
Quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the one true love incarnate;
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose for many.
That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
Praise the One who makes us one.

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Anthony Giamanco (1958-)

Portions adapted from: Perry/Fairchild/Kir-shalom, Worship Ways, Discipleship Ministries, Beth Merrill Neel.

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Worship Service**
- Rick Baker, **Liturgist**
- Zenna Inness, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**

- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Piano Lessons with Erin, Jan 15, 16, 17, 19, Sanctuary, Jan 18, E. Room, 3-5pm
- Women’s Winter Social, Feb 2, 10a-12p, Barn

~Next Week:

- Tony MacNaughton, Leading Worship, Feb 11
- Finance Committee Meeting, Feb 12, 2:45pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, Feb 12, 4:00pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women’s Winter Social, Feb 9, 10a-12p, Barn
- Piano Lessons with Erin, Feb 12, 13, 15, Sanctuary, Feb 14, E. Room, 3-5pm

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