



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

10:00 AM

Mediation:

“Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin and more about courageously and actively doing God’s will.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

PRELUDE *“All My Trials”*

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Marilynn Ham

CALL TO WORSHIP

People & Liturgist

Liturgist: O God, in you we trust.

People: Lead us in your truth and teach us,

Liturgist: for you are the God of our Salvation;

**People: for you we wait, for you we worship. Praise
 God forever!**

*GATHERING HYMN #391 ((NCH)

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

CONFESSION OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relation-ships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison)

God of grace, help us seek you and the truth you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9: 8-17

Liturgist

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Liturgist

Mark 1: 9-15

SERMON “The Wilderness and the Angels”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #270 (NCH)

“Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

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, Jeff & Carol Ellinwood, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Anne Crump, Erin Smith’s parents Carol & Dan Perkins, Patrick Egan, and Pastor Scott Hatfield.

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

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY MUSIC "*Lonesome Valley*"

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Colin Curtis

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**)

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #115 (NCH)

"On Jordan's Bank"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Wayfaring Stranger"

Traditional Spiritual/Arr. Mark Hayes

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

- Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Don Miller, **Liturgist**
- Claire Chase, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**

- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Deacons Meeting, Feb 19, 3:00pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women’s Winter Social, Feb 23, 10-12pm, Barn
- Mission Board Ham & Bean Supper, 5pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Lucy Simonds, “Time for quiet and contemplative prayer after doing God’s work at the Mission Dinner last night. The sanctuary will be open and a Deacon will be present. Feb 25
- Piano Lessons w/ Erin, Feb 26-29, Mar 1, 3-5pm, East Room

Pastoral Care Services	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
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<u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of wk</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490