



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

10:00 AM

Meditation:

Jesus calls (people) not to a new religion, but to a new life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"O Love, How Deep"

Tune: DEO GRACIAS/Arr. Jason Krug

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Love is patient. Love is kind.

People: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way.

Leader: Love is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

People: Love rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Leader: Love never ends.

People: Let us worship the Lord who loves us without boundaries.

INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious and all loving God, you call to us across deep waters and dark places. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find you; and may all things be according to your will. In the name of your beloved Son we pray. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #197 (NCH)

"Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

The Lord is our hope and our trust, our refuge and our fortress. With confidence born out of faith in God's power to save and deliver us, let us join together to confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us. We hold on to the fear that we are unworthy to speak your words, so we stay silent even as your Spirit pulls at our tongues. We struggle to fathom the wholeness of your claim over us, so we ignore the light of your love as

it emerges in the dark places of our lives. We seek refuge in temporary towers, and are numb to the grasp of cruelty. Forgive us. Help us to trust you, to lean upon you, to speak your word to a weary world and accept the completeness of your loving claim on our lives. We pray these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Liturgist

Luke 13:31-35

SERMON The Greatest of These Is Love

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Now It Is Evening"

Tune: BUNESSAN/Text: Fred Pratt Green

Now it is evening:
lights of the city
bid us remember

Christ is our Light.
Many are lonely
who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring,
Christ is our Light.

Now it is evening:
little ones sleeping
bid us remember
Christ is our Peace.
Some are neglected,
who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring
Christ is our Peace.

Now it is evening:
food on the table
bids us remember
Christ is our Life.
Many are hungry
who will be neighbor?
Where there is sharing,
Christ is our Life.

Now it is evening:
here in our meeting
may we remember
Christ is our Friend.
Some may be strangers,
who will be neighbor
Where there's a welcome
Christ is our Friend.

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: Rev. Tony MacNaughton and family on the passing of Jane, Lucy Simond's nephew, Michael Hulse; Linda Caspar's brother-in-law, Conrad Guerra and nephew, William Lane; and Paula Hatfield's father, Paul Behrman. We pray for Carol & Dan Perkins; Bill & Mary Richards, Gerry Adams & Diane Schnellhammer, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Janice Bredeau, Georgie Gimbel and Patrick Egan. We pray for all those whose lives are impacted by natural disasters, gun violence, conflict, and war around the world and here at home.

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 TO THE OFFERING

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*
Traditional Irish Melody/Arr. Mark Barnard

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)

Gracious God, you are the giver of our lives. You know us completely, and you accept from us no weak excuses. Take these gifts offered from our labors. Transform them from merely potential into your love at work in this tired world that thirsts for your Word. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #207 (NCH) *"Just As I Am"*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Londonderry Air"
(*Would God I Were the Tender Apple Blossoms*)
Traditional Irish

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Millie Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**

~This Week:

- Worship Service w/ Rev. Stan Wheeler, March 16
- Handbell Choir Rehearsals, March 17, 8-9:30am
- Mahjong in the Barn, March 17, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, March 17, 4:00pm, E. Rm & Zoom
- Piano/Voice Lessons w/ Erin, March 18, 19 & 21
- Moms & Babies Social, March 19, 9am, Barn

~Next Week:

- Handbell Choir Rehearsals, March 25, 8-9:30am
- Moms & Babies Social, March 26, 9am, Barn
- Piano/Voice Lessons w/ Erin, March 25, 26 & 28
- Winter Women's Social, March 28, 10- 12pm, Barn

<u>Pastoral Care Services:</u>	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
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<u>Minister of Music:</u>	Sue Downes-Borko	907-420-7515
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<u>Deacons:</u>	Lucy Simonds	207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of the week:</u>	Linda Caspar	207-865-5539