



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

love that binds neighbor to neighbor and stranger to friend. We wait for love embodied in Christ, a love fierce, tender and eternal.

Reader Two: Today we light four candles, their brightness stretches across shadows.

Hope, peace and joy blaze together, and now love joins the dance of light. This love is not shallow or fleeting, but deep enough to embrace all creation.

People: O God of steadfast love, you came to us in a manger, not with force but in vulnerability. You call us to love as you love ... boldly, sacrificially, without condition. Teach us to embody your love in word and deed, until the world knows we belong to you.

Reader One: We call this candle Hope.

(Light the first candle.)

We call this candle Peace.

(Light the second candle.)

We call this candle Joy.

(Light the third candle.)

We call this candle Love.

(Light the fourth candle.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our
 God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Gracious God, light up our worship today by your Spirit,
that we might hear what you would have us hear, and be
who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the
Word made flesh. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #68 (NCH) *“God Is Truly with Us”

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made
rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our
confession before our God and each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are
mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of
that gift. The story points us to your glory. Yet, we struggle
to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are
distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter
little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you
have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us
again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can
be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you
have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus. "Call him Jesus," the angel says, "For he will save the people from their sins." From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

Liturgist

SERMON Do Not Be Afraid

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #144 (NCH)

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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: Zonda Belmont, Tony MacNaughton, Kristen Flagg on the passing of her husband, Cyndy Egan's parents David and Dianne Scammon, Sheila Raymond, Mark Whiteside, Marlene Knowles' daughter-in-law Shannon Linder, Crystal Haley, Susan

& Jack Tourtillotte, Maxie & AJ Elmes and their baby, Granger, Carol & Dan Perkins, Bill & Mary Richards, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Sue Downes and those serving in the Peace Corp: and finally, we pray for all those whose lives are impacted by natural disasters, violence, war, and those suffering from personal life challenges 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

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Bell Choir- *"We Three Kings"*

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)**

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #133 (NCH) *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

Bell Choir- *“Joy to the World”*

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- Kathy Brittain, **Liturgist**
- Claire Chase, **Deacon of the Week**
- Rick Baker & Claire Chase, **Zoomigos**
- Women’s Fellowship, **Coffee Hour**
- Music recorded by Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

~This Week:

- Christmas Eve, Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary, **5 PM**

~Next Week:

- Gretchen Legler leading worship service, Dec 28
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HAPPY NEW YEAR
2026



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