



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2025

5:00PM

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

Rev. Wheeler

INTROIT

"Once in Royal David's City"
(verse 1) Erin Smith solo

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Rev. Wheeler: Beloved in Christ, we come to this service to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, to see the loving kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us, therefore, open the Holy Scriptures and read the earliest tale of that disobedience to God's holy will which is common to us all; and then we will hear the story of the birth of Jesus the Christ, our Sovereign one, who brought salvation to the world; and let us thank him with our carols of praise.

People: O God, we pray for the needs of this whole world, especially for peace and good will among all people, that they may learn to love one another as children of you the one God and Creator of all. Because they hold a

special place in the heart of your compassion and love, we remember in our prayers the poor and oppressed; the homeless and the hungry; those that are ill and those that mourn; the lonely and the forgotten; the elderly and the little ones; and all who struggle with doubt and depression.

Lastly, we remember before you, O God, all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude no one can number, with whom, in our Savior Jesus we are ever one. We remember, especially, those members of our congregation who are no longer with us this Christmas Season.

(Silence is kept)

OPENING CAROL #132 (PH) *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*
(verses 1, 2, 4)

The Lighting of the Christ Candle:

One: The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

The Christ candle is lit.

Many: "O sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. "Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples" (Psalm 96:1-3).

One: "Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; Tremble before him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:7-9).

Many: "Say among the nations, 'The Lord is King!' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. He will judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with his truth" (Psalm 96:10a, 11a, 13b).

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

Carol #116 (PH) *"Angeles We Have Heard on High"*

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Carol #134 (PH) *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*
(verses, 1, 2, 3)

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and reign are foretold by Isaiah.

Carol #137 (PH) *"Away in a Manger"*
(verses 1, 2)

The Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1–9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

Carol #141 (PH)

“The First Nowell”
(verses 1, 2)

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26–38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

Carol #120 (PH)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
(verse 1)

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

Carol #120 (PH)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
(verses 2, 3)

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8–16

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

Carol #129 (PH)

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
(verse 1)

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1–11

The wise men from the east led by the star come and offer gifts to the child, Jesus.

Carol #140 (PH)

“What Child Is This”
(verses 1, 3)

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1–14

Rev. Wheeler

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

(For safety reasons, please tip the unlit candle over the lighted one.)

Carol: #138 (PH)

“Silent Night”
(verses 1, 2, 3)

A Blessing:

By the tender mercy of our God love has broken upon us!
Light is given where once there was darkness and hope
where there was only death. We go into this season knowing
that God will guide our feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

Going Forth in Praise. #130 (PH)

“Joy to The World”
(verses 1, 2, 3)