



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

10:00 AM

Meditation:

*There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*

—Edith Wharton

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“How Great Thou Art”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: Here in this place, now in these moments,
we gather to meet our God,

People: whose Word flows
through the rough streets of our lives.

Leader: Here in these people, now with shared cares
and prayers, we hope to see our God,

People: who transfigures our shadows into light,
who transforms our grief into gratitude.

Leader: Here in our silence, now in our songs,
we long to know our God,

People: who gathers us in from every far place,
who melts our frozen hearts with love.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #86 (NCH)

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

CALL TO CONFESSION -

People: God of eternal hope, you place a light in
every darkness and a star in every sky,
and yet we sometimes choose to walk in the
darkness of despair and worry.

Sometimes we forget that there is never a
moment that you are not with us, that your
Son was called Emmanuel, which means
"God with us."

Shine your light upon our path and walk
with us through all the valleys of our lives.
Hear our confession as we regret our attempts

**to forge ahead and handle life our way. Lord,
have mercy. Lord, have mercy and forgive us.
Amen.**

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 147:12-20

Liturgist

John 1:1-18

SERMON Our Source of Light

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #143 (NCH)

“On Christmas Night All Christians 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: Corinne Morton, 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”

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“ More Love to You, O Christ”

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

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an open communion, which means all are welcomed to this table...God's table. You don't have to be a member of this church or any church to partake in the sharing of the bread and drink of the vine.

Invitation

May the Advent God give you hope.

May God grant you peace.

Let us lift our hearts to God who offers righteousness to all.

We open our hearts to the One who loves justice.

Children of God, rejoice in the One who call us to live in harmony with everyone.

Amen and Amen! We give our thanks to God!

Eucharistic Prayer

Your Spirit blew through chaos, Speaking God,
and your Word tamed its havoc.

In those moments, you chose us to be your children,
Heirs of all the goodness you desire for us.

You invited us to glorify you forever,
but we walked into the darkness of the world,
leaving our music behind.

Yet you persisted in your plan
for us, knowing that
where no life is anticipated,
where no future is seen,
where no hope is expected,

it is there you gather us up
and carry us into your light, your kingdom.

**Holy, holy, holy are you, ever-blessing God.
All creation joins in showering praise upon you.
Hosanna in the highest!**

You alone are holy, God of Bethlehem,
and you are Father of Jesus,
Bearer of grace and Singer of truth.
When we lost our voices in exile,
You sent your Word to teach us
new hymns of joy and praise.
When our ears were stuffed
with the lies of the world,
Jesus came, speaking your truth.
When we were marked for death,
He came running to us,
defeating sin and death,
marking us as your own
with the kiss of the Holy Spirit.

The Consecration

As we come to this Table in remembrance,
as we speak of his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
we proclaim that faith which is so mysterious.

The Word of creation was silenced on the cross.

In resurrection love,
the Word became the promise of redemption.
At the right time, the
Word of love will come to lead us home.

In these moments, and in these people,
may your Spirit come to fill us
with the bread of righteousness and the cup of hope.
Flow through us, we pray, like living waters
so that we might be a river of reconciliation.
Grant us your peace, so that we might share it with
others.
Set our hope on Christ,
so that we might bring that same hope
to our neighborhoods and communities.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The body of Christ, the living bread.
The blood of Christ, the saving cup.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gather us now,
no longer broken but made whole,
no longer exiles, but citizens of the Kingdom,
no longer strangers, but brothers and sisters of Christ.
We will forever praise you,

God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #154 (NCH)

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“ Blessings”

Portions adapted from: Rev. Thom Shuman, Calvin Institute of Worship.

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

- Pastor Scott Hatfield, **Leading Communion Service**
- Sarah Johnson, **Liturgist**
- Claire Chase & Joann Bean, **Deacons of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds & Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Erin Smith, **Song Leader**
- Sarah Johnson, **bread for Communion**
- Tim & Sarah Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, January 5, 1-3pm, Barn
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Jan 8 11, 10am, Barn
- Women’s Winter Social, January 9th, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Service of Prayer: Deacons' providing Worship, Jan 11
- Finance Meeting, Jan 12, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, Jan 12, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Jan 15, 10am, Barn

<u>Pastoral Care Services</u>	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
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<u>Song Leader</u>	Erin Perkins Smith	207-864-5346
<u>Council President:</u>	Cyndy Egan	207-864-2255
<u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacons of the week</u>	Claire Chase Joann Bean	207-712-0490 207-670-5000