



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Mediation:

“It took me a long time to understand that God is not the enemy of my enemies. God is not even the enemy of God’s enemies.”

-Martin Niemöller

January 18, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Tomorrow Will Be Kinder”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

People: **We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.**

Leader: Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work. Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present. Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

People: Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy God, reveal yourself to us once again as we hear your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to follow where you lead, and to answer your call. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #198 (NCH)

“Lift High the Cross”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sin of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness. Let us join in the communal act of repentance:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, we do not always live in the ways you call us to be. Help us to recognize our failures and show us truth and honesty. Have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and help us to live with renewed clarity and compassion. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lamb of God, we pray. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God inclines his face to us. God rescues us and sets us again on solid ground. God has not withheld mercy from us. Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Liturgist

Liturgist

SERMON Behold the Lamb of God

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #193 (NCH)

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

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: Ev & Ray Franson, 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”

SERVICE OF GIVING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God doesn't desire our sacrifices or offerings. God's desire is for us to be partners in the redeeming and reconciling work of God on earth. We have been given all we need to fulfill that call, and so we are invited to offer what God has given us in this service. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Just As I Am"

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)**

Holy God, we are not lacking in any gift, and we give you thanks and praise. Receive the gifts of our hearts and lives, not as vain sacrifice, but as a joyful response to your steadfast love. Use what you have given us to your glory in every place. Transform our gifts to become a beacon of hope, a word of life, and a balm of healing for all of creation. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #190 (NCH) *"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

BENEDICTION

Go and see! God is at work all around us.
Go and see! Jesus invites us to follow.
Go and see! The Holy Spirit sends us out, empowered,
renewed, inspired and equipped to do our part.
Let us go and see, in power and in peace, to share God's love
with all. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"From a Distance"

Today's liturgy is adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook, written by Stephanie Sorge, and used with permission.

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- Erin Smith, **Liturgist**
- Joann Bean, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Tim & Sarah, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, January 19, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, January 19th, East Room & Zoom
- Moms & Babies Group, January 22, 10am, Barn
- Women's Winter Social, January 23, 10-12pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Gretchen Legler leading Worship Service, Jan 25
- Moms & Babies Group, January 29, 10am, Barn

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<u>Deacon of week</u>	Joann Bean	207-670-5000