



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Mediation:

“May I be the tiniest nail in the house of the universe. Tiny,
but useful.”

-Mary Oliver

January 25, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy One, you call us all, every one of us, to
this new day. Where darkness has settled, a
new sun has risen.

People: We rise with it.

Leader: Where burdens have bent us low,

People: We gather our courage.

Leader: Where yokes have weighed on our shoulders
and spirits,

People: We move toward freedom.

Leader: Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope
for healing; all who hunger for light.

**People: We come to this dawning day, we come to
this hopeful day, we come to this day the
Creator has made new.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Holy One: Be with us as we worship together in this light-
filled church, today, and every day. May the light of your
glory break into our world's weariness and shine upon the
paths we walk. Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN #171 (NCH)

"Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Holy One, you invite us every day to take stock of the ways
where we fall short and to try again to be more courageous
builders of a better world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Gracious One, I confess that I often doubt the power of the
precious and powerful light that is within me. Forgive me
if out of fear and shyness I hide that sacred light under a
bushel. Help me be of use in the world. Help me be brave
enough to shine my light into places where there is**

suffering. Grant me courage to do my part to illuminate the dark. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The promise of the scriptures is this:

People who have carried the heaviest burdens have had the yoke lifted from their shoulders.

People who have lived in the thickest darkness,
Have emerged into the light.

What feels unbearable, will be made bearable.

Mercy, compassion, and grace are always close at hand. In this promise, receive your freedom.

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Isaiah 9:1-6

Matthew 4:12-23

Liturgist

Liturgist

SERMON Let Your Light Shine

SONG OF RESPONSE

“This Little Light of Mine”
Special Music by Ruth Hill

This Little Light of Mine

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, shine, shine, let it shine!
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm going to let it shine.
Won't let fear blow it out. I'm going to let it shine.
Wherever there is darkness, I'm gonna let it shine.
Deep down in my Heart, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.*

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: Evelyn Franson & family on the passing of Ray, Don & Susie Welch, Linda Wendlken, Janice Bredeau, Corinne Morton, Tony MacNaughton, Cyndy Egan's parents David & Dianne Scammon, Sheila Raymond, 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 #436 (NCH)**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

BENEDICTION

"When a ray of sunshine comes, open out, absorb it to the depths of your being. Never think that an hour earlier you were cold and that an hour later you will be cold again. Just enjoy. Latch on to the passing minute. Shut off the workings of memory and hope. . . . Take away from suffering its double drumbeat of resonance, memory and fear. Suffering may persist, but already it is relieved by half. Throw yourself into each moment as if it were the only one that really existed."

--From *And There Was Light: The Extraordinary Memoir of a Blind Hero of the French Resistance in World War II*
by Jacques Lusseyran

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Light of a Clear Blue Morning"

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

- Gretchen Legler **for leading worship service**
- Cyndy Egan, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase & Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigos**
- Tim & Sarah, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

~This Week:

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

~Next Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, February 2, 1-3pm, Barn
- Moms & Babies Group, February 5, 10am, Barn
- Women's Winter Social, January 23, 10-12pm, Barn

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