



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Transfiguration Sunday

Mediation:

“[The human] can certainly flee from God (we do so), but we cannot escape Him... (We) may let go of God, but God does not let go of (us)”

-Karl Barth

February 15, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

“Edelweiss”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 112)

Leader: Leader: People of God, praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the

Lord, those who greatly delight in his commandments.

People: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Leader: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.

People: Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

God of wonder, awaken us! As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, open us to be surprised! Enliven us with the power of the Word and presence of your Spirit. Transform us for our walk with you. For we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN #182 (NCH)

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

With what shall we come before the Lord? We come, knowing we've lived imperfectly, knowing we need forgiveness, and we ask what we could possibly offer for such a gift. But when we come in honesty and repentance, we find a God who is ready to love, ready to forgive, and ready to renew us as children of God. Trusting

in that grace, let us confess our sin, first together and then in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we come before you in confession. You have showered us with blessings, but we hoard those gifts, refusing to share with our neighbors in need. You have given us freedom to live justly, but we choose to oppress and judge others. You have called us to live in peaceful community, but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves. Forgive us.

Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call. Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way each and every day.

Lord, hear our prayer ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea and wider than the whole of the earth. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed and made whole.

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58: 1 – 9

Liturgist

Matthew 5: 1–12. 1st Gospel

Liturgist

Matthew 5: 13 – 20. 2nd Gospel

SERMON Living in the Upside-Down Kingdom

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #184 (NCH)

“O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair”

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 Wendelken, 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

Recognizing God’s gracious blessings poured upon us, we respond with gratitude, giving of our time, talents and treasure for the building up of the kingdom here and now. Let us consider our gifts given in grateful praise.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You”

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)

Gracious God, thank you for the many blessings of our lives. Bless these gifts we give today. May they be used to bring about justice and joy for those who need them most. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #23 (NCH)

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

BENEDICTION (adapted from Ephesians 1:13)

As we go forth from this place, may we hear and believe the truth, the gospel of our salvation, that we are loved and chosen in Christ and sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Share this good news with everyone you meet, for they are loved and chosen in Christ, too. Alleluia.

Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Let it Be a Hallelujah”

Today’s liturgy is adapted from The Presbyterian Outlook written by Rae Watson. 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**
- Rick Baker, **Liturgist**
- Joann Bean, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Tim & Sarah, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, February 16, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, February 16, 3pm, East Room & Zoom
- ASH WEDNESDAY, February 18

~Next Week:

- Richard Dorian leading Worship Service, February 22
- Women's Winter Social, February 27, 10-12pm, Barn

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