



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

10:00 AM

Meditation:

The problem is, many of the people in need of saving are in churches, and at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God sees the world the same way they do.

-Barbara Brown Taylor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"What the World Needs Now"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & People

Leader: Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

People: We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Leader: Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

People: We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.

Leader: Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

People: We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.

Leader: Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

People: We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #86 (NCH)

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults and fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, then reflect in silent prayer.

People: Loving God, help us. When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, help us.

Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have neglected the cries of others, forgive us.

Powerful God, heal us. When we are so broken we cannot move, when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us.

Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and embrace your call in Christ.

Silent reflection on these words

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 121

John 3:1-17

Liturgist

SERMON Saving Faith

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #208 (NCH)

“God Loved the World”

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, 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”

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.

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

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,

for you are our help, our protector, our savior.

You founded a people for yourself

on the faithful obedience of Abraham,

and led them through your law and prophets.

From the depths of your love

you sent your Son into the world,

not to condemn it, but to save it.

When he was lifted up on the cross and killed,

you raised him to life again,

and opened the life of your Kingdom

to all who believe and are born of water and Spirit.

The Consecration

We remember that on the night of betrayal and

desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the

bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "This is my

body which is broken for you. Do this in

remembrance of me.”

In the same way, Jesus took the cup, after supper saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ’s death, celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and await Christ’s coming again.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church your servant people, that we may be salt and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

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

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn us,
but in order that the world might be saved through him. Sisters and Brothers, your sins are forgiven; be at peace.

Go out, and in all of life, worship the Lord.
Entrust yourself to the winds of God's Spirit;
put to death selfish desires,
and offer yourself for God's mission in the world.

And may God give strength to you and to all;
May Christ Jesus bless you with peace;
And may the Holy Spirit, whispering within your
hearts,
give you assurance that you are God's children.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #530 (NCH)

"God Our Author and Creator"

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"Trust in You"

*Portions adapted from: Discipleship Ministries, Calvin Institute of Christian
Worship*

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

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

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, March 2, 1-3pm, Barn

~Next Week:

- Finance Meeting, March 9, 3:15pm, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, March 9, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Women's Winter Social, March 13, 10-12pm, Barn

<u>Pastoral Care Services</u>	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
<u>Church Secretary</u>	rangeleyucc@gmail.com	207-864-5966
<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>Deacon of the week</u>	Claire Chase	207-712-0490