



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mediation:

Joy is the simplest form of gratitude

-Karl Barth

March 15, 2026

10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Still Waters"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 146) Leader & **People**

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
Happy are those whose help is the God of
Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord: Who made
heaven and earth, and all that is in them.

People: **Who executes justice for the oppressed and
gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the**

prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Leader: The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

People: **The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy and magnificent God, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, allow us to see you clearly in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #12 (NCH)**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Confident of God's character, let us confess our sins together so that we might receive healing and peace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can

be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Silent reflection on these words

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

People: We believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and our sins are remembered no more.

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

Liturgist

SERMON Tit for Tat

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #247 (NCH)

“My Shepherd Is the Living God”

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, 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

THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God gives and gives and gives to bless, help, heal, and save us. What can we give in return? In the beloved words of Isaac Watts: "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

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)

What language can we borrow to thank you, dearest Friend? Accept the gifts we give today to be for your glory and the good of your people, because of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #207 (NCH)

"Just as I Am"

BENEDICTION

Let us go forth from this sacred gathering with new eyes to see God and each other more clearly. The blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all!

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Rescue”

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

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

~This Week:

- Mahjong in the Barn, March 16, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons’ Meeting, March 16, 3pm, East Room & Zoom

~Next Week:

- Dr. Gretchen Legler leading Worship Service, March 22
- Women’s Winter Social meets, March 27, 10-12pm, Barn

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