



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

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

**Mediation:**

“For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

*-Amanda Gorman*

March 22, 2026

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*“What a Wonderful World”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader & People**

(From Psalm 130 A Song of Accent)

**Leader:** Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.

**People:** Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

**Leader:** If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?

**People:** But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that you can be trusted and honored.

**Leader:** I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in the word of the Lord I put my hope.

**People:** I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait  
for the morning, more than watchmen wait for  
the morning.

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Gracious and Loving God, spring has come with its  
evidence of life renewed! We can SEE it now, we can FEEL  
its heat and light. We knew it would come, we knew it was  
there all along, alive under the snow just waiting to burst  
forth, just as we trust that even if we can't see you, your  
light and spirit are here with us as we worship today.  
Glory be to the forces of creation! Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN #286 (NCH)

*"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

All powerful spirit, we know that we can trust you and that  
you will not judge us when we confess the ways that we fall  
short in our efforts to be builders of your promised kingdom  
of peace and love. Let us confess our shortcomings together  
so that we may receive healing and peace.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

**Gracious One, We confess that it is sometimes hard to believe in your power, when the machinations and violence of the greedy and power-hungry here on earth wreak such havoc and suffering. We confess that sometimes we wonder (like Mary and Martha in today's scripture) why you don't just prevent bad things from happening. We waiver in our faith because we are so overwhelmed, so afraid, so grief-stricken. When that happens, forgive us. Help us to BELIEVE. Call us to hope. Call us to new life. Help us use our gifts in whatever small way we can to make your kingdom of peace and love a reality here on earth.**

*Silent reflection on these words*

#### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Good News of today's scripture is this: For those who believe in the power of the creator, manifest in the body of Jesus Christ, even death--that seeming full stop--will not be an end, but a transition. With the help of our faith, we shall overcome the darkest of dark times and trials in ourselves and in our world; our winters will always turn to spring.

#### THE WORD OF GOD

##### SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-45

**Liturgist**

SERMON     Death is Not the End

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #539 (NCH)

*“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”*

## 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: 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

Holy One, thank you for this opportunity to hold up our joys and concerns in beloved community. Blessed be all those whose names appear on our prayer list. We hope that you hear our prayers, whether we speak them aloud or not. In times like these, there is a kind of foolishness to hope.

However, you remind us that though Hope in God may seem foolish, You are still wiser than the words and actions of humanity. You come, in Jesus Christ, reminding us where Blessing is abundant: The least, the lost, the few, the poor,

the meek, the mourning, the thirsty, the hungry, the peacemakers, the pure in heart. You remind us of the core of your commandments: Love God. Love One Another. Care for Each Other as You Would Jesus. You offer abundant love, like the new soft light of spring melting the ice that then waters the thirsty earth and makes way for the green fire of spring.\*

#### 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

As we transition to our time of offering, let us recall the beautiful words of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

The ushers will now collect the offering gifts.

#### 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)

**Holy one, it feels good to give, no matter how small the gift. Thank you for this reminder. May these gifts, and the gifts of time and talent that we offer to this church and to each other nourish our hearts and our faith and be used wisely to do your work on earth. Amen.**

#### \*CLOSING HYMN #211 (NCH)

*“Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days”*

#### BENEDICTION

Ask me of the song and I will tell  
of the rain's slow murmur.

Ask me of the dancers, and I will tell  
of the fools who kept dancing, even  
as the earth cracked beneath their feet.

The fools I will crawl to at the end  
of every broken year, my palms open, begging  
for the many ways to lift this body,  
this dead weight — into music.

(From "Despite Everything, My Dancers" by Ocean Vuong)

God, may we always be able to hear the music of your grace  
and reassurance.

## POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"Colors of the Wind"*

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

- Dr. Gretchen Legler **for leading worship service**
- Millie Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Tim & Sarah, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

**~This Week:**

- Women's Winter Social, March 27, 10-12pm, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Palm Sunday Service, March 29, Church of the Good Shepherd, 9:30am. All are welcome!
- Maundy Thursday, March 2, Draping of the Cross



Church of the Good Shepherd &  
Rangeley Congregational Church UCC

*Palm Sunday Service,  
Worship in Community*

March 29, 9:30am

All are welcome! 2614 Main St. Rangeley

A joint service uniting two churches, gathering as one in God's love  
featuring music from the Rangeley Ringers  
with a pot-luck brunch to follow.

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<u>Deacon of week</u>	Linda Caspar	207-864-5539