

**Rangeley Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany***

February 24, 2019

10:00 AM

Meditation:

“Now there is a final reason I think that Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” It is this: that love has within it a redemptive power. And there is a power there that eventually transforms individuals. Just keep being friendly to that person. Just keep loving them, and they can’t stand it too long. Oh, they react in many ways in the beginning. They react with guilt feelings, and sometimes they’ll hate you a little more at that transition period, but just keep loving them. And by the power of your love they will break down under the load. That’s love, you see. It is redemptive, and this is why Jesus says love. There’s something about love that builds up and is creative. There is something about hate that tears down and is destructive. So love your enemies.”

— *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”
TUNE: MIT FREUDEN ZART/Arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INVOCATION (Unison)

God of extravagant love, may your generous Spirit, flow into our little lives. Although our spiritual capacity is sometimes small, and judgmental thoughts waylay good intentions, may we become miserly in recrimination and more generous in our affirmation of those who share this journey with us. Through Jesus Christ, your most prodigal act of love. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 37:1-9*

Liturgist

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
**for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

**He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for
the LORD shall inherit the land.

*GATHERING HYMN #293 (NCH)

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Loving God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed: we have not loved you with all our heart, nor have we served you with all our strength. We have been blind to your vision of a renewed world and deaf to your call to costly discipleship. Too often we have been indifferent to the suffering of others and unwilling to forgive one another. In your mercy, Lord, pardon and restore us, that together in the ministry of Christ we may serve you with joy all the days of our lives...

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 & Luke 6:27-38

HYMN OF RESPONSE

#416 (NCH)

“I Will Trust in the Lord”

SERMON

HYMN OF MEDITATION

#398 (PH)

“Hope of the World”

SERVICE OF PRAYER

PRAYER FOR 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:** Eva McMillan (medical tests), Mary Dubay; Sarah Brouse (fiancé of Dubay's son Steven); Susan Johnson; Adam Crump; Roger Roy (significant other of Daphne, Donna Wilcox's sister); Zeb Wentzell (Terri Wentzell's grandson); Toni Millette; Becky Walker; Kris Nozal (Marcia Baker's niece); Karen Lantz; Haelyn Vorous; our law enforcement personnel, first responders and the communities they serve; our military personnel worldwide; and all those who serve our country. And we hold in prayer those friends and members of our church family who are unable to join us in worship today.*

OUR LORD'S PRAYER ("forgive us our sins")

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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, Amen.

CHORAL AMEN #812 (NCH)

"Threefold Amen"

SERVICE OF GIVING

INVITATION

OFFERTORY “If You But Trust That God Will Guide You”

TUNE: NEUMARK/Arr. Barbara Boertje

*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)

May these offerings extend your love, O God, to those who have not experienced its healing power. May hatred be overcome and enemies turned from their evil intent. May the joy we know in giving flow out to those who will benefit from our gifts. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #353 (PH)

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

*WORDS OF SENDING AND BLESSING

Little children of God, if God so loves us,
then so should we love one another.

The love of Christ enables us.

Judge not, and you will not be judged;
condemn not, and you will not be condemned;
forgive, and you will be forgiven;
give and it will be given to you.

**And we will be children of the Most High,
who is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish;
giving good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
running over, poured into our lap.**

The abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the immeasurable love of God,

and the boundless fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you today and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“East St. Louis Toodle-Oo”

Duke Ellington

Today’s featured musician for Black History Month is Duke Ellington:

Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington (1899 – 1974) was an American composer, pianist, and leader of a jazz orchestra during a career that spanned more than fifty years.

Ellington was noted for his inventive use of the big band, and for his eloquence and charisma. His reputation continued to rise after he died, and he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize Special Award for music in 1999.

*The Prayer of Invocation and the Words of Sending and Blessing were written by Rev. Bruce Prewer.

Special Thanks to all who helped with the service today:

- + *Linda Wendelken, Liturgist*
- + *Zenna Inness and Ray Franson, Ushers*
- + *Dave Walker, Sunday School*
- + *Nancy Zambraski, Coffee Hour*

~**This Week:**

- + “Commandments” Study- Sunday, 2/24, 11:30 am, East Room
- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 2/25, 8 am, Sanctuary
- + Deacons’ Meeting – Monday, 2/25, 4 pm, East Room
- + Pastor Annette’s “Drop In” Hours - Tuesday, 2/26, 1-3 pm, Pastor’s Office

~Next Week:

- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 3/4, 8 am, Sanctuary
- + Prayer Shawl – Monday, 3/4, 2 pm, East Room
- + Women’s Fellowship – Friday, 3/8, 10 am, Barn

~Announcements:

- + Pastor Annette and her husband David will be in Guatemala February 28 through March 12, on a mission trip to build masonry cooking stoves in the Guatemalan highlands.
- + The “Commandments” Bible study will take a three-week hiatus and resume meeting on March 24
- + While Rev. Mott is away on some of her vacation time doing mission work in Guatemala, we will have guests filling our pulpit. On March 3, we are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dick Waddell back. Dick is a long-time friend of our congregation and we look forward to having him with us. On March 10, we will have one of our Members in Discernment, Scott Hatfield, speak to us.
- + We’re sorry to report that our Church Secretary, Ethna Thompson, will be leaving us on February 28th to assume a full-time position at Orgonon. Ethna has done a wonderful job for us and we wish her all the best in her new endeavor.

We are therefore looking for someone interested in a very-part-time job as Church Secretary.

For more information or to express interest in the position, please contact Rick Baker or Linda Wendelken, who will be filling in with Kathy Brittain until we hire a replacement for Ethna.

Walking toward God, we the members of the Rangeley Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Rangeley, Maine, seek to be a congregation which includes all persons who desire to have a relationship with God and to live God's love, as shown to us through the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ.

from our Open and Affirming Statement

Rangeley Congregational Church, www.rangeleyucc.com

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Secretary	Ethna L. Thompson	864-5966
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