

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

March 3, 2019

10:00 AM

Meditation: *Call me away, Providing God, to a time with You.*

Shine Your Light upon me.

Cause me to see anew,

Hear anew,

Speak anew,

Act anew.

Cause me to know that I am "Beloved."

Cause me, by Your Holy Presence,

To be Transformed

Amen.

Doug Dunlap, in the Earth Care and Spirituality Book of Weeks for the
month of March

ORDER OF WORSHIP

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

"Gonna Be A Great Day"

Traditional Spritual/Arr. Joseph Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

One: Something drew us together this morning

All: **Something we can't name but which we
experience in worship**

One: Some holy mystery we call God
All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus
One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit
All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and prepare us to love the world.

*GATHERING HYMN #182 (NCH)

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

INVOCATION (Unison)

**O God, you are beyond words and description,
your love is beyond knowledge and explanation.
Make our hearts ready to receive you.
Change us, we pray, that our lives may reflect the
glory of your transfiguration.
We rejoice in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. “It’s good for us to be here. Let’s get comfortable.” We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God of glory and light,
forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable
with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves.
Keep calling us down from our mountains of
privilege.**

Keep expecting more of us as your disciples.

**Keep reminding us to listen to your Son,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE

One: Whether we hear a voice from the heavens
 or a still small voice in our hearts,
 listen carefully for the love of God.
 Believe and accept God's love and live in God's
 freedom.

All: **We believe! Thanks be to God!**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wise God, open our ears to hear these words of Scripture;
Open our minds to understand the message;
Open our hearts that we may be transformed by what we
hear and understand.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

Luke 9:28-36

SERMON

“The Light That Casts No Shadow”

HYMN OF MEDITATION #43 (NCH)

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

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); Sarah Brouse (fiancé of Dubai’s son Steven); Susan Johnson; Adam Crump; 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

The needs of our world are too numerous to name.
Shelter, food, clean air and water...
Our gifts touch these needs,
but the biggest gift we can give is to love the world
so much that we give of ourselves.
Nothing will transform need more than sacrificial
love.
So, as you give money don't let your giving be done.
Start planning to go deeper. May God now bless our
hopes and dreams.

OFFERTORY

“Bryn Calfaria”

(Lord, Enthroned In Heavenly Splendor and
Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious)

William Owen/Arr. Penny Rodriguez

*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)

**Bless these gifts, we pray.
May they represent just the beginning of our
journey
to show forth your glory to the world. Amen.**

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN 336 (NCH)

“Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face”

INVITATION

When Jesus sat at table and enjoyed communion with tax collectors and sinners, he proclaimed that God’s care knows no bounds. We proclaim again the comfort and challenge of that witness: all are invited now to share God’s table, and be nourished by the Bread of Life.

COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Truly it is a good, right, and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, for in your Son Jesus we have seen you face to face. Now and forever, his love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and through his love the wholeness of all things is continually coming into being. And so, with the church on earth and the whole company of heaven we join our voices in their unending hymn of praise, saying...

Holy, Holy, Holy God of love and majesty,

The whole universe speaks of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

REMEMBERING CHRIST'S WORDS

We remember that on the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

The bread we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The cup of blessing, which we bless is the communion in the blood of Christ.

PRAYING FOR THE SPIRIT

Let us pray.

Loving God, may your Holy Spirit be present to us through this bread and cup. Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Holy God, as you have shown your care for us at this table, send us forth to care for others. May what we do today and in all our tomorrows proclaim honor to Jesus and glorify your Holy name.

Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #294 (NCH)

“There’s a Spirit in the Air”

*BENEDICTION

May God now send us back down the mountain of
our worship.

We have been changed.

We can’t be silent anymore.

We have seen the Light of the World.

Go and share the radiance of love!

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“Glory to His Name/Holy Manna Medley”

Arr. Charity Book Putnam

Special Thanks to all who helped with the service today:

- + *Rev. Dick Waddell, for today’s message*
- + *Linda Wendelken, Liturgist*
- + *Sandy Moore & Kathy Brittain, Ushers*
- + *Corinne Sorenson, Sunday School*
- + *Linda Caspar, Coffee Hour*

~This 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

~Next Week:

- + Rangeley Ringers – Monday, 3/11, 8 am, Sanctuary
- + Men’s Breakfast – Monday, 3/11, 8 am, Country Club Inn
- + Finance Committee – Monday, 3/11, 3pm, East Room
- + Church Council – Monday, 3/11, 4pm, East Room

~Announcements:

- ✦ Pastor Annette is away on a mission trip in Guatemala. She will be back in Maine on Wednesday, March 13.
- ✦ There will be a potluck brunch and "World Cafe" style congregational event on Sunday, March 17 following the worship service. The purpose of the event is to provide congregational input regarding 1) future directions for ministry and mission and 2) pastoral leadership expectations--input which will be incorporated into our church profile, an important part of our RCC search process. There are sign up lists for the event at the Sanctuary entrance and in the Barn.
- ✦ The "Commandments" Bible study will resume meeting on March 24, when we will focus on the fourth commandment regarding Sabbath keeping.
- ✦ The Adult Choir will sing in worship on March 24. Rehearsals will take place at 9am on Sunday March 10, 17 and 24 in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

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



“Spring Forward” daylight savings will be on
March 10th

Rangeley Congregational Church, www.rangeleyucc.com

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