

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**Order of Worship – February 14, 2021**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**

Words from Wakanda: from the 2018 Marvel Universe film, *Black Panther*  
“In times of crisis, the wise build bridges while the foolish build barriers”

Elijah Cummings - 20<sup>th</sup> century

~ “When I became a lawyer, no one asked me if I had spent time in special ed [classes]. All they wanted was a good lawyer. The same little boys that bullied me, the same ones that beat me up, they became my clients.”

W.E.B. Dubois - 20<sup>th</sup> century

~ "If there is anybody in this land who thoroughly believes that the meek shall inherit the earth they have not often let their presence be known."

~ “ It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one’s self through the eyes of other, of measuring one’s soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.”

Langston Hughes - 20<sup>th</sup> century

~ “Jazz, to me, is one of the inherent expressions of the Negro life in America: the eternal tom-tom beating in the Negro soul – the tom-tom of revolt of the weariness in a white world, the world of subway trains and work, work, work; the tom-tom of joy and laughter, and pain swallowed in a smile.”

Words from Wakanda: from the 2018 Marvel Universe film, *Black Panther*

“Bury me in the ocean, with my ancestors that jumped from the ships, because they knew death was better than bondage.”

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: As the Deer  
Martin Nystrom (1956- )

CALL TO WORSHIP

**Liturgist:** *Words from the late Senator John Lewis:*

*“We must be headlights and not tail lights.”*

Officiant: We come to hear.

**Liturgist: We come to know.**

Officiant Prayer

**Liturgist:**

**Beyond our busyness,  
Above the cold winter floor  
there is a glory rising born of heaven  
and reaching out to each one of us**

**a light that shines through the clouds  
an invitation seeking all of who we are  
that transfigures the world**

**that transforms darkness into hope  
that brings life from a cross  
where old life ends and new life is born**

**In glory Jesus meets us here  
raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain  
carrying the weight of our humanity  
to the heights of heavens glory.**

**Let us worship from the mountain and hear again  
"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"**

Officiant Prayer

**INVOCATION**

**Liturgist:** *Words from the late Senator John Lewis:*

*"We must continue to go forward as one people, as brothers and sisters."*

Officiant Prayer

**OPENING HYMN:** Swing Low, Sweet Chariot  
African-American Spiritual

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

**Liturgist:** *The late Senator John Lewis reminds us:*

*"When you make mistakes, when you're wrong, you should admit you're wrong  
and ask people to forgive you."*

Officiant Prayer

*...time for silent prayer...*

**Liturgist:** *Words of reassurance from the late Senator John Lewis:*

*"We're one people and we all live in the same house.  
Not the American house – but the world house!"*

Officiant Prayer

SCRIPTURE

**2 Kings 2:1-12 ~ Liturgist**

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit."

He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not."

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**Mark 9:2-9 ~ Officiant**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Officiant:            *The Weary Blues* by Langston Hughes

                                Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,  
                                Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon,  
                                                I heard a Negro play.

                                Down on Lenox Avenue the other night  
                                By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light  
                                                He did a lazy sway. . . .

                                                He did a lazy sway. . . .

                                                To the tune o' those Weary Blues.

                                With his ebony hands on each ivory key  
                                He made that poor piano moan with melody.

                                                O Blues!

                                Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool  
                                He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool.

                                                Sweet Blues!

                                                Coming from a black man's soul.

                                                O Blues!

                                In a deep song voice with a melancholy tone  
                                I heard that Negro sing, that old piano moan—

                                                "Ain't got nobody in all this world,

                                                Ain't got nobody but ma self.

                                                I's gwine to quit ma frownin'

                                                And put ma troubles on the shelf."

                                Thump, thump, thump, went his foot on the floor.

                                He played a few chords then he sang some more—

                                                "I got the Weary Blues

                                                And I can't be satisfied.

                                                Got the Weary Blues

                                                And can't be satisfied—

                                                I ain't happy no mo'

                                                And I wish that I had died."

                                And far into the night he crooned that tune.

                                                The stars went out and so did the moon.

                                The singer stopped playing and went to bed

                                While the Weary Blues echoed through his head.

                                                He slept like a rock or a man that's dead.

## SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding  
Tune: HYFRYDOL, Lyrics: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

## PRAYERS OF THE 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: Rev. Kit Ripley, Janet House, Becky and Dave Walker, Patrick Egan, Sam Meehan's Mom and her husband Nicole & LeRoy Hileman, Erin Smith, Tony McNaughton, Linda Caspar's niece Aubree Yanchick and her family, Scott and Janet Wilson and Janet's father John Owens, Marcia Baker's niece, Kris Nozal, Dave Walker's brothers, Tom & Peter Walker, Haelyn Vorous, the Daileys' son Rob, and our Members in Discernment Becky Walker and Scott Hatfield.

Our law enforcement personnel, medical personnel and first responders, and our military personnel worldwide, and all those who serve our country We pray for the people around us this day for those who are upon our hearts and minds because of a need that they have...

*Liturgist: A precious thought from the late Senator John Lewis:*

*"Sometimes you have to not just dream about what could be –  
you get out and you push, and you pull, and you preach.  
And you create a climate and environment to get those in high places  
to get men and women of good will in power to act!"*

## PASTORAL PRAYER – Liturgist

### A TIME OF SILENCE

### 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 (sins, debts, trespasses) as we forgive those who (sin, our debtors, 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, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: This Little Light of Mine  
African-American Spiritual

### SENDING

*Liturgist: Words to send us out to the streets from John Lewis:*

*It was not enough to come and listen to a great sermon or message every Sunday morning and be confined to those four walls and those four corners. You had to get out and do something.*

Officiant: God, send us forth into the world,

**Liturgist: so we will go to walk miles in the shoes of others.**

Officiant: Jesus, call us to serve everyone we meet,

**Liturgist: so we will become all things to all people.**

Officiant: O Holy Spirit,

encourages us to let go of our gospel-given rights,

**Liturgist: so we may breathe new life into all who might faint.**

#### BENEDICTION – Officiant

*Closing words from poet Langston Hughes to send us out to the streets and to the mountain:*

*Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.*

*Let the rain sing you a lullaby. And now... from here on the Mountain ...*

*May God grant us all peace and love for one another.*

*Let us walk together in peace holding one another's hands tightly. Amen.*

POSTLUDE: Ain't Misbehavin'

Thomas "Fats" Waller (1904-1943) & Harry Brooks

Special thanks to Fred Dubay for being our Liturgist, Kit Caspar will lead the singing, Dave Walker for the PowerPoint slideshow presentation and Sam Meehan for setting up the Zoom live stream so we can worship together.

Deacon of the Month:

Evelyn Franson

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