



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

"Gaudete in Domino semper"

(Rejoice in the Lord always)

--Philippians 4:4

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"What Child Is This?"*

Traditional/Arr. Linda Lamb

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & All

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: **Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our
God.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Leader: God is our salvation. We will trust in him and not be afraid!

People: The Lord of Salvation is our strength and our song!

Leader: Look up and rejoice! Draw water out of the wells of salvation.

People: The Lord of Joy is our strength and our song!

Leader: Give thanks to God! Call on his name!

People: The Lord of Might is our strength and song!

All: Let this be known in all the earth: The Lord of Righteousness is our strength and song! Cry aloud and shout, people of God, for Christ the King of kings is coming to save us! Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

The Advent candles are lit.

INVOCATION

*GATHERING HYMN #110 (PH)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

Gracious God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the

fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared.

Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary’s womb is to be named Jesus. “Call him Jesus,” the angel says, “For he will save the people from their sins.” From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 12:2-6

Liturgist

Philippians 4:4-7

Liturgist

Luke 3:7-18

SERMON How Then, Shall We Live?

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #141 (PH)

“The First Nowell”

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: *Michael Hulse, Lucy Simonds Nephew, Linda Caspars' brother-in-law, Conrad Guerra, Patrick Egan, Bill & Mary Richards, Gerry Adams & Diane Schnellhammer, Wendy Darienzzo, Kris Nozal, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Erin Smith's parents, Carol & Dan Perkins. We pray for the victims of gun violence in the U.S. and for all those whose lives are impacted by conflict, violence, and war 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

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gift to God.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "*Dona Nobis Pacem*"

Traditional/Arr. Brenda Austin

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)

**O God, with faith and hope and joy, we offer these gifts.
Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes
in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord.
Amen**

*CLOSING HYMN #132 (PH)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

Traditional/Arr. Kevin McChesney

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**

- Linda Jones, **Liturgist**
- Rick Baker, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour** and for the unwavering help of Kathy & Zenna whenever they are present.

Thank you to the Rangeley Ringers Ecumenical Bell Choir for today's special music:

Jen Atwood
 Carol Batchelder
 Marie Beauregard
 Debby Higgins
 Leona Kennett
 Mary Richards
 Erin Smith
 Susan Tourtillotte
 Ana Wetherill
 Ben Wetherill
 Brittany Wetherill

~This Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, Leading Worship, Dec 15
- Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal, Dec 16, 8-9:30am
- Deacons' Meeting, Dec 16, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Piano/Voice lessons, Dec 17, 18, & 20, 3-5pm, Sanctuary
- Mom & Baby Social Hour, Dec 18, 11am, Barn
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~Next Week:

- Christmas Eve Service, Dec 24, 5pm

Please join us for:
 The Rangeley Community Chorus Holiday Concert,
 directed by Sue Downes-Borko.

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year"

on Friday, December 13, 2024, 7:00 PM at the
 Church of the Good Shepherd

The RCC Holiday concert has been made FREE for all to
 enjoy and exclusively sponsored by Birchwood Interiors

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