



Rangeley Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Rangeley, Maine

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An Open and Affirming Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

10:00 AM

Meditation:

“Revelation in fact does not differ from the person of Jesus Christ nor from the reconciliation accomplished in Him. To say revelation is to say ‘the Word became flesh’.”

--Karl Barth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

Traditional Polish Carol/Arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & All

Leader: Christ is coming! We see the signs!

People: Christ is coming! We will be ready!

Leader: Christ is coming! Raise your heads because
your redemption is drawing near!

People: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord! My Spirit rejoices in God, our Savior. Holy is his name! For the Mighty One has done great things for us! Holy is his name!

People: His mercy lasts for generations and generations on those who fear him. Let your face shine upon us, Lord, and we shall be saved.

Leader: He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has pulled down tyrants from their thrones.

People: Holy is his name! Let your face shine upon us, Lord, and we shall be saved.

All: Come quickly Lord Jesus!

The Advent candles are lit.

INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN #107 (PH)

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Liturgist

Hebrews 10:5-10

Liturgist

Luke 1: 39-55

SERMON *“Community, Blessings, and Hope”*

HYMN OF RESPONSE #128 (PH)

“In the Bleak Midwinter “

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: *Lucy Simond's nephew, Michael Hulse; Linda Caspar's brother-in-law, Conrad Guerra and nephew, William Lane; the Hatfield family & Paula's parents; Erin Smith's parents, Carol & Dan Perkins; Bill & Mary Richards, Gerry Adams & Diane Schnellhammer, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Wendy Darienzo, Kris Nozal, and Patrick Egan. We pray for the victims of gun violence in the US 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

“All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.” Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *“Once in Royal David’s City”*
Traditional/Arr. Lloyd Larson

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)**

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ’s ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ’s hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #117 (PH)

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Traditional English Carol/Arr. Lloyd Larson

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Rick Baker, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour** and for the unwavering help of Kathy & Zenna whenever they are present.

~This Week:

- Christmas Eve Service, Dec 24, 5:00pm
MERRY CHRISTMAS

~Next Week:

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, leading Worship Service, Dec 29,
HAPPY NEW YEAR

<u>Pastoral Care Services</u>	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
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<u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon of the week</u>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073