



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
**First Sunday After Christmas**

December 29, 2024

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE "*Gesù Bambino*"

Traditional Italian Carol/Arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & All

Leader: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

**People: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Leader: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

**People: Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance**

**with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.**

**Leader:** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**People:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it. We will lift up our hearts to the Lord!

#### **INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Gracious God, sometimes we forget that the Christmas story did not end in the stable but continued as Jesus grew into a man, almost unnoticed by the world apart from his appearance at the temple, his spiritual home on earth. As we close the pages of one year and begin the next chapter of our lives may we grow in faith, in wisdom and closer to you each day, to your praise and glory. Amen**

#### **GATHERING HYMN #122 (PH)**

*“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”*

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Rev. Wheeler**

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, “Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)**

**Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. We let the cares and concerns of**

**this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. Friends, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.**

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Psalm 148

**Liturgist**

Colossians 3:12–17

**Liturgist**

Luke 2:41–52

**SERMON** Have You Seen Jesus?

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #131 (PH )**

*“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming “*

**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

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: “Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

## OFFERTORY MUSIC *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Traditional English Carol/Arr. Joan Pinkston

## 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)

**Good and gracious God, in this season during which we have given and received so many gifts, we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus Christ. In response to your love and mercy, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Bless them and us, so our gifts may be multiplied and our hearts may be generous as we seek to do good and share what we have; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN #124 (PH)

*“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”*

## BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*“He is Born, the Divine Christ Child”*

Traditional French Carol/Arr. Penny Rodriguez

**~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

**~This Week:**

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, leading Worship Service, Dec 29

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**~Next Week:**

- Rev. MacNaughton, leading Worship Service, Jan 5
- Mahjong, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm, Barn
- Piano/Voice Lessons, Jan 7, 8 & 10, 3-5pm, Sanctuary
- Winter Women’s Social, Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm, Barn

<u>Pastoral Care Services</u>	Rev. Tony MacNaughton	207-864-3355
<u>Church Secretary</u>	rangeleyucc@gmail.com	207-864-5966
<u>Minister of Music:</u>	Sue Downes-Borko	907-420-7515
<u>Council President:</u>	Cyndy Egan	207-864-2255
<u>Co-Chair of Deacons:</u>	Claire Chase Lucy Simonds	207-712-0490 207-462-2101
<u>Deacon</u>	Linda Caspar	207-670-5073