



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 16, 2025

10:00 AM

***Meditation:***

*Jesus calls (people) not to a new religion, but to a new life.*

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *"I Saw a Tree By the Riverside"*  
Ken Medema

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader & All

Leader: Love is patient. Love is kind.

**People: Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way.**

Leader: Love is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

**People:** Love rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Leader:** Love never ends.

**People:** Let us worship the Lord who loves us without boundaries.

#### INVOCATION (Unison)

Gracious and all loving God, you call to us across deep waters and dark places. Yours is the light which guides us and the voice which we follow. We pray that you would reveal yourself to us as we worship you. May those without hope be encouraged; those who are sad, cheered; those who are seeking, find you; and may all things be according to your will. In the name of your beloved Son we pray. Amen.

#### GATHERING HYMN #175 (NCH)

*“O Christ the Healer We Have Come”*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Wheeler

The Lord is our hope and our trust, our refuge and our fortress. With confidence born out of faith in God’s power to save and deliver us, let us join together to confess our sin.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us. We hold on to the fear that we are unworthy to speak your words, so we stay silent even as your Spirit pulls at our tongues. We struggle to fathom the wholeness of your claim over us, so we ignore the light of your love as it

emerges in the dark places of our lives. We seek refuge in temporary towers, and are numb to the grasp of cruelty. Forgive us. Help us to trust you, to lean upon you, to speak your word to a weary world and accept the completeness of your loving claim on our lives. We pray these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silent reflection on these words*

### THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. We know this love through Jesus Christ, and by this love, we know that we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! God has poured out love upon us, and we have received forgiveness for our sins. We can now live in peace! May mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Liturgist

Luke 6:17-26

SERMON     The Greatest of These Is Love

HYMN OF RESPONSE (Insert)

*“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

## SERVICE OF PRAYER

*(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. Tony MacNaughton and the MacNaughton family on the passing of Jane, Heidi Ross, Janice Bredeau on her recent surgery, Lucy Simonds' nephew, Michael Hulse; Linda Caspar's brother-in-law, Conrad Guerra and nephew, William Lane; the Hatfield family & Paula's parents; Georgie Gimbel, The Wetherill family, on the passing of Ben; Erin Smith's parents, Carol & Dan Perkins; Bill & Mary Richards, Gerry Adams & Diane Schnellhammer, Bobby & Leeanna Wilbur, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Kris Nozal, and Patrick Egan. We pray for all those who have been affected by the California fires, 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

## INVITATION TO 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 *"If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"*  
Tune: NEUMARK/Arr. Barbara Boertje

## 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)

**Gracious God, you are the giver of our lives. You know us completely, and you accept from us no weak excuses. Take these gifts offered from our labors. Transform them from merely potential into your love at work in this tired world that thirsts for your Word. Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN #581 (NCH)

*"Lead Us From Death to Life"*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"I've Got Peace Like a River"*

Traditional/Arr. Mark Hayes

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler, **Leading Worship Service**
- Kathy Brittain, **Liturgist**
- Rick Baker, **Deacon of the Week**
- Claire Chase, **Zoomigo**
- Sarah & Tim Johnson, **Coffee Hour**

**~This Week:**

- Handbell Choir, Feb 17, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- Mahjong in the Barn, Feb 17, 4:00pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, Feb 17, 4:00pm, E. Room & Zoom
- Piano/Voice Lessons w/ Erin, Feb 18, 19 & 21, 3-5pm,
- Moms & Babies Social, Feb 19, 11am, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Handbell Choir, Feb 24, 8-9:30am, Sanctuary
- F Team Congregation Family Gathering, Feb 23, 10:30 am in place of worship service. Zoom available
- Moms & Babies Social, Feb 26, 11am, Barn
- Piano/Voice Lessons w/ Erin, Feb 25, 26 & 28, 3-5pm,
- Winter Women's Social, Feb 28, 10- 12pm, Barn

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <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<br>Lucy Simonds | 207-712-0490<br>207-462-2101 |
| <u>Deacon of the week</u>     | Rick Baker                   | 207-864-3351                 |