



Rangeley Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Rangeley, Maine

**Rangeley Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Church*  
Third Sunday in Lent

**Mediation:**

“You will never feel proud of your work if you find no joy within it; your best work is always joyful work.”

*-Stevie Wonder*

March 8, 2026

10:00 AM

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**OUR GATHERING AND PRAISE**

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*“Never Alone”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Liturgist**

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 95)      Leader & **People**

Leader:      O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

**People:** **For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God's also. The sea is the Lord's, for God made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.**

**Leader:** O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**People:** **For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.**

#### PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Gracious God, inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN #70 (NCH)

*"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"*

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

As we wander through the wilderness of Lent, we come closer and closer to confronting human sin, both our own sin and our collective sin. It is with honesty about how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession allows us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who hears us is

the God who already loves us. Therefore, we need not fear confession, but draw near to the love is God, in honesty and candor.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)**

**God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Forgive us for failing to heed opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand more ready to forgive than we are to confess those aspects of our lives that stand in need of your grace. And thus forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake...Amen.**

*Silent reflection on these words*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Romans 8)  
Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us. Believe the promise of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

**Liturgist**

SERMON    The Woman at the Well

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE #190 (NCH)

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

**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: Evelyn Franson & family on the passing of Ray, Don & Susie Welch, Linda Wendelken, Corinne Morton, Tony MacNaughton, Cyndy Egan's parents David & Dianne Scammon, Sheila Raymond, Marlene Knowles' daughter-in-law, Shannon Linder, Crystal Haley, Susan & Jack Tourtillotte, Maxie & AJ Elmes and their baby, Granger, Carol & Dan Perkins, Bill & Mary Richards, Kathy & Jim Wilcox, Heidi Ross, Tim & Sarah Johnson, Sue Downes and those serving in the Peace Corp: and finally, we pray for all those whose lives are impacted by natural disasters, violence, war, and those suffering from personal life challenges 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**

### **THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

From the dust of the earth, God made our mortal bodies, and with God’s breath, life was instilled in us. There is nothing that we have that is not a gift from God.

Remembering all of God’s manifold blessings, let us worship God with our tithes and our offerings.

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*“Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You”*

### **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)**

**Holy God, from abundance upon abundance, you have said that we may freely take, and freely share. As we return to you what is already your own, we ask that you would bless these gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see your reign unfolding before us, through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #18 (NCH)

*"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

*"Think It's Going to Rain Today"*

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

- Rev. Stan Wheeler **for leading worship service**
- Les Hoekstra, **Liturgist**
- Linda Caspar, **Deacon of the Week**
- Lucy Simonds, **Zoomigo**
- Tim & Sarah, **Coffee Hour**
- Erin Smith, **Music Leader**

**~This Week:**

- Finance Meeting, March 9, 3:15, East Room & Zoom
- Council Meeting, March 9, 4pm, East Room & Zoom
- Winter Women's Social, March 13, Barn

**~Next Week:**

- Rev. Stan Wheeler leading Worship Service, March 15
- Mahjong in the Barn, March 16, 1-3pm, Barn
- Deacons' Meeting, March 16, 3pm, East Room & Zoom

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<u>Deacon of week</u>	Linda Caspar	207-864-5539