

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Morning Worship
In Person Worship - May 9, 2021 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing a new song,

All: a song of love for all.

Leader: Sing of the Spirit of love,

All: the Spirit who loves us all.

Leader: Sing of God's abiding love,

All: that we might love one another and all of the world.

Leader: Sing a new song,

All: a song of love for all.

Nancy Schmidt



Opening Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Return to the Sanctuary

Spirit of Love, you have been with us these past months as we struggled for hope, understanding, and faith. Your Spirit has abided with us and in us and in our worship, in our lives, in our feelings, and in our community. Loving One, we are grateful that we were empowered to whisper your song of love in our hearts. We confess that fear, doubt, and anger often had its way, but we know you always call us home, if we only listen to your voice.

Now we pray that your love may flow through every word we hear, every thought we think, every word we speak and every song we sing. May this place be revived in vision that we may know it anew as a sacred place for the work of our hearts and our hands – all in your blessed name. Spirit of power and grace, abide again in us, that we may abide in the love of your son Jesus. In this sanctuary that has known this song for generations, we now proclaim your song of love for all. Amen.

Opening Song: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" <https://youtu.be/BF8jG9U3r5w>

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:44-48 The Message

Nancy Schmidt

No sooner were these words out of Peter's mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners. The believing Jews who had come with Peter couldn't believe it, couldn't believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on "outsider" non-Jews, but there it was—they heard them speaking in tongues, heard them praising God.

Then Peter said, "Do I hear any objections to baptizing these friends with water? They've received the Holy Spirit exactly as we did." Hearing no objections, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then they asked Peter to stay on for a few days.

Moment of Music: "Going Home". <https://youtu.be/vReXxJ1f-v8>

Joys and Concerns (*prayer requests can be texted to 978-973-2362*)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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, Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 15: 9-17 *The Message*

Nancy Schmidt

"I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love.

"I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

"You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

"But remember the root command: Love one another.

Message: "At Home in the Love of Jesus"

Closing Song: "God Be With You, Til We Meet Again" <https://youtu.be/GZHrtHdbdOE>

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

PARTICIPANTS

Minister: Rev Tom Bentley
Lay Reader: Nancy Schmidt
Deacon: Ken Sanford

Music Director: Karl Schmuck
Deaconess: Patti Cummings

Prayer List

Whenever there is a need for spiritual support, you are encouraged to call anyone on the Prayer Chain with your concerns and they will inform the others so that our prayers of love and support can be with you immediately.

The Prayer Chain members are as follows: Patti Cummings (978)948-8176, Patti.Cummings@livanova.com; Kay Dalzell (978)948-2674, kdalzell@comcast.net; David & Donna Irving (978) 948-7020, dvd Irving@aol.com; Nicola Pyburn (978)948-2598, nicola.pyburn@gmail.com; Ken Sanford (978)948-2847, kcsanford1@gmail.com; Dennis Ward (978)432-1021, rward3024@comcast.net; Jerry & Nancy Schmidt (978)388-1417, schmidtnancy36@gmail.com, jschmidt22@comcast.net; or Les Warren (978) 352-7551; leswarren3@gmail.com.

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)	Al Locke
Family of Doris Bradstreet	Helen Downing
Nancy Cook and her daughter	Duval Family
Gretchen Lee (friends of Bev and Doug Phillips)	Millie and Nat Dummer
Ken Flewelling (Amy Rotberg's father)	Ginny Merry
Al Fowler (Friend of Sally McRae's)	Sally McRae
Kurt Reese	Family of Mame Delaney
Jean (Sally McRae's cousin)	Linda Lemay (Rhonda Ward's friend)
Beverley Phillips	Pat and Steve True
Elaine Pyburn (resident at Sunrise in Lynnfield)	Dede Todd
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)	Helen Dobbins
Gerry Ernstrom	Billy Prime
Robbie Marshall	Bill Glynn and Family
Lisa Levandowski and family	Colin Wilson (Rhonda Ward's father)
Arnold and Patti Cisco	Douglas Stoddard (Judy Robillard's son)

Flowers on the Communion Table today are given in loving memory of Barbara Cliff and in celebration of Mother's Day by Debbie and Gary Confalone.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

<https://youtu.be/BF8jG9U3r5w>

**Love divine, all loves excelling
Joy of Heaven to Earth come down
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling
All Thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus, Thou art all compassion
Pure, unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart**

**Breathe, O breathe, Thy loving spirit
Into every troubled breast
Let us all in Thee inherit
Let us find the promised rest
Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
End of faith, as its beginning
Sets our hearts at liberty**

**Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee
Changed from glory into glory
'Til in Heaven we take our place
'Til we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder, love and praise**

“Going Home”. <https://youtu.be/vReXxJ1f-v8>

**They say there's a place where dreams have all gone
They never said where, but I think I know
Its miles through the night just over the dawn
On the road that will take me home**

**I know in my bones, I've been here before
The ground feels the same, tho the land's been torn
I've a long way to go, the stars tell me so
On this road that will take me home.**

**Love waits for me round the bend,
leads me endlessly on
Surely sorrows shall find their end
And all our troubles will be gone**

**And I know what I've lost, and all that I've won
When the road finally takes me home
And when I pass by, don't lead me astray
don't try and stop me, don't stand in my way
I'm bound for the hills where the cool waters flow
On the road that will take me home**

**Love waits for me round the bend,
leads me endlessly on
Surely sorrows shall find their end
And all our troubles will be gone
And I know what I've lost and all that I've won
When the road finally takes me home
I'm going home, I'm going home, I'm going home**

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

<https://youtu.be/GZHrtHdbdOE>

**God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still divide you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
When life’s perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love’s banner floating o’er you,
Smite death’s threatening wave before you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

[Refrain]



Annual Plant Sale

May 15th, 2021

Rain Date May 22nd, 2021

9am until 1 pm

**At First Congregational Church
of Rowley**

Plants supplied by Country Gardens of Rowley

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Hi Friends.

As you know, we will be going back to Sunday services "indoors" starting 5/9. The Flower Committee has openings in June for the communion table .

Please contact Deb Confalone if you're interested: dconfalone@comcast.net, 781-290-6502.

The Flower Committee

