

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ  
The Order of Morning Worship  
December 6, 2020 @ 10am  
Second Sunday in Advent

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Tom Bentley

**Call to Worship**

Leader: The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

**All: The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.**

Leader: The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

**All: We come to prepare a way for the Lord, we come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives. For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of our God."

**All: We hear God's voice and so we come to proclaim God's justice for all.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of our God."  
*(the first purple candle- the candle of Hope is lit.)*

**All: We hear God's voice and so we come to announce peace to all our neighbors.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of our God."

**All: We hear God's voice and so we come to live out God's call for Peace in this world.  
You cry out to us, O God, calling us to come to you.**

*The second purple candle, the candle of Peace is lit.*

**Opening Song "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

**New Testament Reading 2 Peter 3:8-16 The Message**

Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change. But when the Day of God's Judgment does come, it will be unannounced, like a thief. The sky will collapse with a thunderous bang, everything disintegrating in a huge conflagration, earth and all its works exposed to the scrutiny of Judgment.



Since everything here today might well be gone tomorrow, do you see how essential it is to live a holy life? Daily expect the Day of God, eager for its arrival. The galaxies will burn up and the elements melt down that day—but *we'll* hardly notice. We'll be looking the other way, ready for the promised new heavens and the promised new earth, all landscaped with righteousness.

So, my dear friends, since this is what you have to look forward to, do your very best to be found living at your best, in purity and peace. Interpret our Master's patient restraint for what it is: salvation. Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who don't know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it.

### **Moment of Music "Lord Jesus Think on Me"**

**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                      Mark 1:1-8      The Message**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### **A Time of Reflection for Heritage Sunday**

**Message: "Our Inheritance"**

### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Benediction**

**Postlude: "Lo How a Rose E're Blooming"**

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

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)	Al Locke
Doris Bradstreet (Residence at Riverbend)	Helen Downing
Nancy Cook and her daughter	Betty and Paul Duval
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	Mame Delaney
Jean (Sally McRae's cousin)	Linda Lemay (Rhonda Ward's friend)
Beverly Phillips	Pat and Steve True
Elaine Pyburn (resident at Sunrise in Lynnfield)	Dede Todd
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)	Audrey Corby
Helen Dobbins	Gerry Ernstrom
Billy Prime	Robbie Marshall
Audrey Corby	Duval Family

## Lyrics

### Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through;  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Bear me thro' the swelling current,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

## **Lord Jesus, Think On Me**

1 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earth-born passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
Amid he battle strife;  
In all my pain and misery  
Be thou' my health and life.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
Nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point Thou the heav'nly way.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
That when this life is past;  
I may th'eternal brightness see  
And share Thy joy at last.