

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ**  
**Order of Morning Worship**  
**Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – March 14, 2021 @ 10am**  
**Fourth Sunday in LENT**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Call to Worship.** (Psalm 107, Ephesians 2, John 3)

**Marge Thurston**

Leader: God loves us with a steadfast love.

**All: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!**

Leader: God loves us so much he gave us his Son.

**All: Let us believe and have eternal life!**

Leader: God loves us with a great love, rich in mercy.

**All: Let us have faith to receive this grace!**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.**

**Opening Song “Our Father, We Have Wandered”** *(see lyrics below)*

<https://youtu.be/xFAE0RXzACQ>

**New Testament Reading**

**Ephesians 2:1-10. The Message**

**Marge**

**Thurston**

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

**Moment of Music "Down in the River to Pray"** *(see lyrics below).*

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

**Invitation to Silence** (words said by the Pastor)

*Now, in shared quietness, we shall listen to the wisdom  
of our inner hearts and minds as we join in this time  
of silence and meditation.*

*Let us give thanks for our personal journeys...  
sometimes long and hard...*

*Let us seek forgiveness for times when our fears  
have outweighed our love...*

*Let us be mindful of the greed which so often rules us...*

*Let us remember, in silence... and wonder.*

**Time of Silence**

**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 3:14-21. The Message**

**Marge**

**Thurston**

“No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

“This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing

it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

"This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is."

**Message: "Believing *Into* Jesus"**

**Closing Music "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee "** sung by Amy Grant (*see lyrics below*) <https://youtu.be/SfzDBmY5pV0>

**Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley**

**"Our Father, We Have Wandered".**  
<https://youtu.be/xFAEORXzACQ>

**Our Father, we have wandered  
And hidden from your face;  
In foolishness have squandered  
Your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling,  
We rise with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling,  
We hear you call our name.**

**And now at length discerning  
The evil that we do,  
Behold us, Lord, returning  
With hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us  
And home rejoicing bring,  
In gladness there to greet us  
With calf and robe and ring.**

**O Lord of all the living,  
Both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving  
And ever caring Lord,  
Grant now that our transgressing,  
Our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
In pardon and in peace.**

**"Down in the River to Pray"**  
<https://youtu.be/UmBHFU3ZA>

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way**

**O sisters, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way**

**O brothers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on, brothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way**

**O fathers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O fathers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way**

**O mothers, let's go down  
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?  
Come on, mothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way**

**O sinners, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sinners, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray**

**“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”**

(Amy Grant) <https://youtu.be/SfzDBmY5pV0>

**O Master, let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free  
Tell me Thy secret, help me hear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care  
Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee  
In closer, dearer company  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong  
In truth that triumphs over wrong**

**O Master let me walk with Thee  
In closer, dearer company**

**O Master let me walk with Thee  
Let me walk with Thee**

**In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broadening way  
In peace that only Thou canst give  
With Thee, O Master, let me live**

**O Master let me walk with Thee**

**O Master let me walk with Thee**