



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 27, 2022
Reverend Thomas Bentley

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Doug Phillips

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!

Leader and People: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love. AMEN!

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Doug Phillips

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. AMEN.

Opening Song: "Just As I Am" <https://youtu.be/YvAFo436bMY>

(Lyrics are displayed on the screen)

New Testament Reading

Doug Phillips

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 The Message

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world

square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

Call to Offering

Rev. Tom Bentley

Moment of Music: "God Loved the World" <https://youtu.be/HnGhP3lvCfE>

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above the Heavenly Host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Tom Bentley

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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 have sinned 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

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

Message: “Going Home Again for the First Time ”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: “Goin’ Home” <https://youtu.7e/AAw78FOkhZs>

Benediction

Rev. Tom Bentley

Flowers on the Altar given by Nancy Reed in loving memory of loved ones

Deacons: Nancy and Jerry Schmidt

Lay Reader: Doug Phillips

Audio Visual: Eric Fila

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<http://www.firstchurchrowley.org>

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What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Marge Thurston, piano

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Goin' Home

<https://youtu.be/AAw78FOkhZs>

Goin' home, goin' home, I'm just goin' home;
Quiet-like, some still day, I'm just goin' home.
It's not far, just close by,
Through an open door;
My Work's all done, cares laid by,
Goin' to fear no more.

Mother's there 'spectin' me,
Father's waitin' too;
And Lots o' folks are gather'd there,
With the friends I knew,
With the friends I knew,

Home, I'm goin' home!

Nothin lost, all's gained,
No more fret or pain,
No more stumbling on the way,
No more longing' for the day,
Goin' to roam no more!

Morning star lights the way,
And Restless dream all done;
Shadows gone, break o' day,
Real life just begun.

And There's no break, there's no end,
Just a living on;
Wide awake, with a smile
Going on and on.

Goin' home, goin' home, I'm just goin' home,
It's not far, just close by
Through an open door.

I'm just goin' home,
goin' home

Easter Lily and Tulip Orders

Easter Lily single stem \$12



Tulip multi-stem in 6.5" pot
\$11
pink, lavender, white, yellow, red



Please Order by April 10th

Contact Debbie Confalone dconfalone@comcast.net

781-290-6502

Please Order _____ Easter Lilies and/or _____ Tulips (Colors _____)

Given by _____

In honor / memory of _____

Total: _____ (self addressed envelopes are located at the entrances)

Prayer List

Kim Cyr
Joyce Ernstrom
Mary Hartman
Millie Gates
Beverley Phillips
Pat and Steve True
Phil Winders

Margaret Niska has moved to Haverhill Crossings, keep her in your prayers. If you would like to send a card the address is:
Haverhill Crossing
254 Amesbury Road
Haverhill, MA 01830
Visitors will be allowed in May