

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ  
Order of Morning Worship  
February 7, 2021 @ 10am**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: There is, under the mystery that is 'us', a deep, abiding sense of oneness.

**All: As we gather and celebrate today, may we be filled with an awareness of that oneness.**

Leader: May it soak into and through the whole of our living.

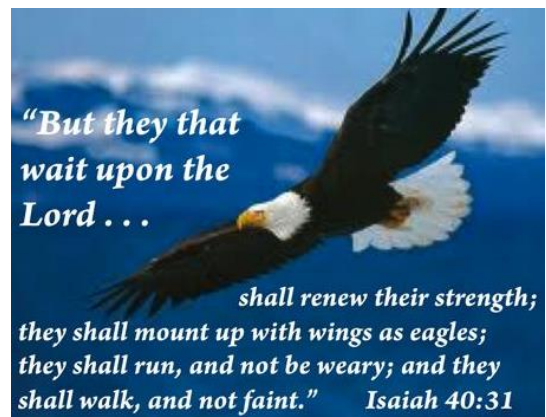
**All: And may we know that all this is a gift from the Holy One who made us.**

**Opening Song "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"** (*see lyrics from the Pilgrim Hymnal attached*)

<https://youtu.be/J-6PMvgJHG0>

**Old Testament Reading NRSV Isaiah 40:21-31**

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.



Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

**Moment of Music "Here I am Lord"** (*please see lyrics attached*) <https://youtu.be/zBq-yDhM2KY>

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

**Time of Silence**

## Invitation to Silence

*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 journey...*

*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.*

## 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 1:29-39      NIV**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So, he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

**Message: "The Universal Destination of Prayer"**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Benediction:**

**Postlude: "Be Still My Soul" (A cappella – Eclipse 6).** <https://youtu.be/kqKVFD8Obc>

## 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	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)	Audrey Corby
Helen Dobbins	Gerry Ernstrom
Billy Prime	Robbie Marshall
Audrey Corby	Bill Glynn and Family
Lisa Levandowski and family	Eric Walczewski



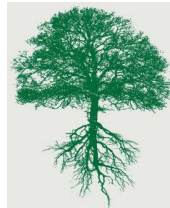
Hosted by the  
 First Congregational Church  
 of Rowley's Youth Group  
 Saturday, Feb 27 @10am  
 Parking LOT

**Food and Toiletry Drive**  
 Load up your trunk with non-perishable food and toiletries,  
 drive up and we will safely unload your donations.  
 Food donations will go to Lazarus House Food Pantry.  
 Toiletry donations will go the Rowley Food Pantry.  
 Bins will be made available for collection at the  
 church's Sunday Drive in Services too.

For more information, email: [first.church@verizon.net](mailto:first.church@verizon.net)

## Announcements

**Interested in Church Membership?:** “Rev. Tom would like to speak with anyone who is interested in looking into membership in the church. All those interested are requested to check in with Rev. Tom via his email ([bentleyconsulting123@gmail.com](mailto:bentleyconsulting123@gmail.com)) and/or a telephone call to his cell (978-973-2362). When everyone interested is signed on, an orientation group time will be scheduled at a time convenient to all. This group will then meet for two to three times to share and learn about what membership means in our congregation. Tentatively, new members would then be received on Easter Sunday April 4th.



## Church Membership

*Establishing Roots in  
 a faith community!*

**Invitation to a Journey:** The Season of Lent will be a challenge this year with the increased isolation due to the pandemic. In this time is also an opportunity to reflect on where you are in your journey of faith and life. To help with this, everyone is invited to register for a special program. Entitled **“The Journey in the Spirit”** on the day after our Ash Wednesday Service on Zoom on February 17th at 7 PM, interested folks will meet on Zoom at 7 PM on the Thursdays of Lent concluding with a Zoom Maundy Thursday Service for the whole congregation on April 1st at 7 PM. This seven-week program will help all of us explore our own personal spirituality - What’s your “Spiritual Type”? What values form the foundation of your life and your faith expressions? What spiritual prayers and practices (ancient and modern) might interest you and help you in your “Journey”? How does your spiritual focus relate to Christian traditions and scripture? You are invited to come and see and experience the love of Jesus in special and new ways. The structure of the program will allow for sharing in small groups as well as a larger number of all participants together.

If you have no internet and computer access, all you need is a land-line telephone. Please call the office to register, or you can do so online at our website [firstchurchrowley.org](http://firstchurchrowley.org).

**LYRICS: "Love Divine, All Loves  
Excelling" PH #228**

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n 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 ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry 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,  
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

4 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 heav'n we take our place,  
'til we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**"Here I Am, Lord"**

I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them  
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone  
Give them hearts for love alone  
Who will speak my word to them  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame  
I will tend the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them  
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart.

## **Be Still, My Soul**

Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side  
With patience bear, the cross of grief or pain  
Leave to thy God, to order and provide  
In every change, He faithful will remain  
Be still, my soul, thy best thy heavenly friend  
Through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as He has the past  
Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last  
Be still, my soul, the waves and wind still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the Lord  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone  
Sorrow forgot. Loves purest joys restored.

Be still my soul, when change and tears are past.  
All safe and blessed, and we shall meet at last.  
Be still, we shall meet at last.  
Be still, we shall meet at last.  
Be still, Be still, Be still.