



First Congregational Church of Rowley

175 Main Street, Rowley, MA – 978-948-3993

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Flowers on Communion Table, Sunday, May 1

Given in loving memory of deacon Emeritus Nat Dummer from the Diaconate

Deacons – Les Warren and Patti Cummings

Lay Reader – Jen Loring

A/V –

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Jen Loring

Leader: Christ asked Peter if he loved him.

People: Peter affirmed three times his love of the Lord.

Leader: Christ asks us if we love him.

People: O Divine One help us to live our love through you.

Leader: Christ calls us to demonstrate our love in service.

Leader & People: Lord, help us to witness to your love in the ways in which we care for others. AMEN

Opening Prayer: (in unison)

Jen Loring

God of power and might, let your love shine on us and through us to others.

Take the blindness from our eyes and our hearts. Give us the joy of knowing and serving you in all that we say, think and do. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

Words of Assurance:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Sing! Shout! Rejoice! Jesus calls you to serve because of his love for you. He believes in you and all the gifts you have been given! Do not be afraid. Christ is with you always.

Opening Song: "Send Down Your Truth O God"

<https://youtu.be/bdy2ScSMKsA>

New Testament Reading

Jen Loring

Acts 9:1-19 *The Message*

All this time Saul was breathing down the necks of the Master's disciples, out for the kill. He went to the Chief Priest and got arrest warrants to take to the meeting places in Damascus so that if he found anyone there belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he could arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem.

He set off. When he got to the outskirts of Damascus, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?"

He said, “Who are you, Master?”

“I am Jesus, the One you’re hunting down. I want you to get up and enter the city. In the city you’ll be told what to do next.”

His companions stood there dumbstruck—they could hear the sound, but couldn’t see anyone—while Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself stone-blind. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. He continued blind for three days. He ate nothing, drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias. The Master spoke to him in a vision: “Ananias.”

“Yes, Master?” he answered.

“Get up and go over to Straight Avenue. Ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus. His name is Saul. He’s there praying. He has just had a dream in which he saw a man named Ananias enter the house and lay hands on him so he could see again.”

Ananias protested, “Master, you can’t be serious. Everybody’s talking about this man and the terrible things he’s been doing, his reign of terror against your people in Jerusalem! And now he’s shown up here with papers from the Chief Priest that give him license to do the same to us.”

But the Master said, “Don’t argue. Go! I have picked him as my personal representative to non-Jews and kings and Jews. And now I’m about to show him what he’s in for—the hard suffering that goes with this job.”

So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” No sooner were the words out of his mouth than something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes—he could see again! He got to his feet, was baptized, and sat down with them to a hearty meal.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: “He Who Turns the Tides” *(a poem shared to music)*

<https://youtu.be/rSW2hKHV0e0>

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

Joys and Concerns | 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 21:1-19 *The Message*

Jen Loring

After this, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, this time at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee). This is how he did it: Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed "Twin"), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter announced, "I'm going fishing."

The rest of them replied, "We're going with you." They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to them: "Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?" They answered, "No."

He said, "Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens." They did what he said. All of a sudden there were so many fish in it, they weren't strong enough to pull it in.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!"

When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea. The other disciples came in by boat for they weren't far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it.

Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn't rip.

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." Not one of the disciples dared ask, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Master.

Jesus then took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus had shown himself alive to the disciples since being raised from the dead. After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Master, you know I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

He then asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Master, you know I love you."

Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep."

Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I'm telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don't want to go." He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, "Follow me."

Message: "On Assignment"

Rev. Tom Bentley

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION - Rev. Tom Bentley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Most loving and gracious God. Forgive our sins; those we commit knowingly and those we do without perception of how they hurt others. Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit to hear your truth, to understand our failure and to reach a new level of understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: *Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.*

All: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven

COMMUNION PRAYER - Rev. Tom Bentley

The pastor says “...and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and
Might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

The pastor says: *Let us unite in the words of remembrance...*

All: We remember and give thanks for such love and goodness, and mercy.

WORDS OF BLESSING - Rev. Tom Bentley

HOLY COMMUNION

The pastor will offer instructions as how to receive the elements, and when to eat the bread and drink the unfermented wine.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)

Almighty God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Song: “Peace I Leave to You” <https://youtu.be/aYvw5pXVse0>

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Send Down Your Truth O God

<https://youtu.be/bdy2ScSMKsA>

Send down Thy truth, O God;
Too long the shadows frown;
Too long the darkened way we've trod:
Thy truth, O Lord, send down.

Send down Thy Spirit free,
Till wilderness and town
One temple for your worship be:
Thy Spirit, O send down.

Send down your love, your life,
Our lesser lives to crown,
And cleanse them of their hate and strife:
Thy living love send down.

Peace I Leave to You

<https://youtu.be/aYvw5pXVse0>

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto
you: not as the world giveth, give I unto
you. 2x

These things have I spoken unto you, that
my joy might remain in you, and that your
joy might be full. 2x

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto
you: not as the world giveth, give I unto
you. 2x

These things I have spoken unto you, that in
me ye might have peace. In the world ye
shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;
I have overcome the world.

Coming up at First Church...

Wednesday mornings at 10am **Getting to Know Us, study group**

Tuesday, May 10 – **Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm**

Saturday, May 14 - **8-9:30am - Pancake Breakfast (\$8)**

Saturday, May 14 - **9am-1pm - Annual Plant Sale (rain date 5/21)**

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 1pm-2pm - Council on Aging Fitness Groups

Save the date: Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament, September 17, 2022

COME TO Breakfast!



Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, May 14,
2022
8:00-9:30 am

Pancakes · Toppings · Bacon
Heart-Healthy Turkey Sausage ·
Coffee · Juice · More!

\$8 Adults
Children under 6
eat free!

Annual Plant Sale



**Saturday
May 14
9am-1pm**

Plants provided by
Country Gardens

Rain date: 5/21



Fellowship Thrift Shoppe

Open
Thursdays 3-6pm
Saturday 9am-1pm