

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ**  
**Order of Worship**  
**February 14, 2021**  
**Remote Service Via Zoom**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Call to Worship**

**Patti Cummings**

Leader: All loving One, giver of life, your light shines in our lives.

**All: And your glory is revealed through your Son, Jesus.**

Leader: Creator God, we ask that you share his presence with us as you did with Peter, James, and John.

**All: Filled with the Holy Spirit we can proclaim his healing love to all the world.**

**Opening Song “ Praise to the Lord, The Almighty”** *(see lyrics on screen).*

<https://youtu.be/BNq0WtMSmIY>

**New Testament Reading**

**2 Corinthians 4:3-6** *The Message*

**Patti Cummings**

If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

**Moment of Music :“Willow” as sung by Taylor Swift** *(words and music by Hildegard von Blingen – see lyrics below).* <https://youtu.be/suxKt2wspg8>

**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 9:2-10**    *The Message*  
In a Light-Radiant Cloud

**Patti Cummings**

Six days later, three of them did see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus.

Peter interrupted, “Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let’s build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing.

Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him.”

The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. “Don’t tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you’re free to talk.” They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth “rising from the dead” meant.

**Message: “Close Encounters of the Real Kind”**

**Benediction:    Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Postlude: “ O Virtus Sapientiae – Hildegard von Blingen”** (*lyrics and translation below*)

<https://youtu.be/C9K9PfiRjxM>

**“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!”**

- *arranged and performed by Nathan and Christie Nockles (and band)*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All who hear; now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise Him!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o’er things so wondrously reigneth;  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea so gently sustaineth!  
Have thou seen how thy desires e’er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Hallelujah! (X 4)

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore him.

Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore him.

Hallelujah! (X 10)

## Lyrics for "Willow" as sung by Taylor Swift (words and music by Hildegard von Bingen)

I am like the water when thy ship roll'd in that night  
Rough on the surface but thou cut'st through like a knife  
And if we were not bound by fate,  
Ne'er would I have known from the look on thy face  
Lost in thy current like a priceless wine

The more thou dost say, the less I know  
Wither thou wilt stray, I follow  
Foil my plans, Thou'rt my man

Life was a willow and it bent before thy wind (oh)  
Head on the pillow, I could feel thee stealing in  
As if thou wert a mythical thing,  
A chalice from the palace or a champion ring  
there was one prize I would die to win

The more thou dost say, the less I know  
Wither thou wilt stray I follow  
I beg of thee, please, take my hand  
Foil my plans, thou'rt my man

Thou knowest my ship could bear thee home  
Anywhere else is hollow  
I beg of thee, please, take my hand  
Foil my plans, thou'rt my man

Life was a willow, and it bent before thy wind (oh)  
I am scorned time and time again  
Life was a willow, and it bent before thy wind (oh)  
Yet I return like an old refrain

Wait for the signal, I shall meet thee after dark  
Down by the tree where my name and thine are carv'd  
Now we two are bound by fate  
Belike I might have known from the look on thy face  
Every façade was a work of art

The more thou dost say, the less I know  
Whither thou wilt stray, I follow  
I beg of thee, please, take my hand  
Foil my plans, thou'rt my man  
Thou knowest my ship can bear thee home  
Anywhere else is hollow  
I beg of thee, please, take my hand,

Foil my plans, thou'rt my man

The more thou dost say, the less I know  
Whither thou wilt stray, I follow  
I beg of thee, please, take my hand,  
Foil my plans, thou'rt my man  
I know that my ship could bear thee home  
Anywhere else is hollow  
I beg of thee, please, take my hand  
Foil my plans, thou'rt my man

### **O Virtus Sapientiae**

O virtus Sapientiae,  
quae circuiens circuisti  
comprehendendo omnia  
in una via, quae habet vitam,  
tres alas habens,  
quarum una in altum volat,  
et altera de terra sudat,  
et tertia undique volat.  
Laus tibi sit, sicut te decet,  
O Sapientia.

### **Oh strength of wisdom**

O strength of Wisdom  
who, circling, circled,  
enclosing all  
in one lifegiving path,  
three wings you have:  
one soars to the heights,  
one distils its essence upon the earth,  
and the third is everywhere.  
Praise to you, as is fitting,  
O Wisdom  
<https://lyricstranslate.com>


## 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; Kay Dalzell (978)948-2674, kdalzell@comcast.net; David & Donna Irving (978) 948-7020, dvdirving@aol.com; Nicola Pyburn (978)948-2598, nicola.pyburn@gmail.com; Ken Sanford (978)948-2847, kcsanford1@gmail.com; Dennis Ward (978)432-1021, rward3024@comcast.net; Jerry & Nancy Schmidt (978)388-1417, schmidtncancy36@gmail.com, jschmidt22@comcast.net; or Les Warren (978) 352-7551; leswarren3@gmail.com.

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)  
Doris Bradstreet (Residence at Riverbend)  
Nancy Cook and her daughter  
Gretchen Lee (friends of Bev and Doug Phillips)  
Ken Flewelling (Amy Rotberg's father)  
Al Fowler (Friend of Sally McRae's)  
Kurt Reese  
Jean (Sally McRae's cousin)  
Beverley Phillips  
Elaine Pyburn (resident at Sunrise in Lynnfield)  
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)  
Helen Dobbins  
Billy Prime  
Audrey Corby  
Lisa Levandowski and family

Al Locke  
Helen Downing  
Duval Family  
Millie and Nat Dummer  
Ginny Merry  
Sally McRae  
Family of Mame Delaney  
Linda Lemay (Rhonda Ward's friend)  
Pat and Steve True  
Dede Todd  
Audrey Corby  
Gerry Ernstrom  
Robbie Marshall  
Bill Glynn and Family  
Eric Walczewski

## Announcements

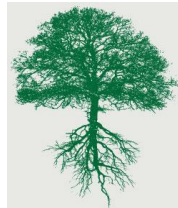


Hosted by the  
First Congregational Church  
of Rowley's Youth Group  
Saturday, Feb 27 @10am  
Parking LOT

**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)

**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).