



First Congregational Church of Rowley

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley

HAPPY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Father's
DAY

*Flowers on the Communion Table given by Sharon Emery
in memory of Ray Emery and Frank Roberts*

Deacons – Nancy and Jerry Schmidt

Lay Reader – Doug Phillips

Audio Visual –

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Doug Phillips

Leader: O God, we pray that you will hear us.

People: Time and again, we stretch out our hands, seeking your presence and your comfort.

Leader: When our minds are full of anxious thoughts, our hearts and souls refuse to be comforted.

People: But when we recall your wonderful deeds of past days - the way you responded to the cries of your people saving them from slavery and guiding them to freedom; then we know that you hear us.

Leader: Your way, O God is holy. No one is as great as you.

You are the God who works wonders and performs mighty deeds.

Leader and People: You are the God who hears our prayers and answers them

Opening Prayer: (*in unison*)

Doug Phillips

Holy God, we celebrate the freedoms we have. Help us to know such blessings are a gift from you. Help us to understand that through Jesus we have been freed from enslavement to sin and evil and liberated to love and serve you, O God. We acknowledge that we could never have done this on our own and we praise you for giving us, through Jesus, the freedom to enjoy lives made fruitful through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us. We pray, to be guided by the Spirit to go into the world in courage and peace. Empower us to be bearers of your word that we may bring justice, help, and healing to those in need. Through Jesus we pray. Amen

Opening Song: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1 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!

2 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.

3 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 thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

New Testament Reading

Doug Phillips

Galatians 3:23-29 *The Message*

Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.

But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ, you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe—Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.

In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous "descendant," heirs according to the covenant promises.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music "Let Every Christian Pray" Choir
Karl Schmuck, director

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 Luke 8:26-39 *The Message*

They sailed on to the country of the Gerasenes, directly opposite Galilee. As he stepped out onto land, a madman from town met him; he was a victim of demons. He hadn't worn clothes for a long time, nor lived at home; he lived in the cemetery. When he saw Jesus he screamed, fell before him, and bellowed, "What business do you have messing with me? You're Jesus, Son of the High God, but don't give me a hard time!" (The man said this because Jesus had started to order the unclean spirit out of him.) Time after time the demon threw the man into convulsions. He had been placed under constant guard and tied with chains and shackles, but crazed and driven wild by the demon, he would shatter the bonds.

Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Mob. My name is Mob,” he said, because many demons afflicted him. And they begged Jesus desperately not to order them to the bottomless pit.

A large herd of pigs was browsing and rooting on a nearby hill. The demons begged Jesus to order them into the pigs. He gave the order. It was even worse for the pigs than for the man. Crazy, they stampeded over a cliff into the lake and drowned.

Those tending the pigs, scared to death, bolted, and told their story in town and country. People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had been sent, sitting there at Jesus’ feet, wearing decent clothes, and making sense. It was a holy moment, and for a short time they were more reverent than curious. Then those who had seen it happen told how the demoniac had been saved.

Later, a great many people from the Gerasene countryside got together and asked Jesus to leave—too much change, too fast, and they were scared. So, Jesus got back in the boat and set off. The man whom he had delivered from the demons asked to go with him, but he sent him back, saying, “Go home and tell everything God did in you.” So, he went back and preached all over town everything Jesus had done in him.

Message: “When the Voice says ‘Don’t Mess with Me’ ”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: This Is the Day

This is the Day, this is the Day,
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made
We will rejoice, we will Rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord has made. 2x

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Upcoming at FCoR:

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Juneteenth (substitute)

9:30 – 10:30am CoA Fitness Group

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

10am – 12pm GTKU - Getting to Know Us

1 – 2pm YMCA - Fitness Group

6:30 – 8pm Trustees Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

9:30 – 10:30am COA Fitness Group

3 – 6pm Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open

7 – 8:15pm Alanon

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

1 – 2pm YMCA-Fitness Group

5:30 – 7pm Boy Scouts

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

9am – 1pm Fellowship Thrift Shop

7 – 9pm AA

SATURDAY, JULY 9

9am Boy Scouts Recycling

SATURDAY, SEPT 17

Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament

Did you know.....

- New Deadline for submissions to July and August Steeplenotes is July 1.
- We need your input to inform the future direction for our church. Please take a moment to fill out the All-Church Survey. The link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7X3Q68S>
- Please check us out on Facebook and "like" us @firstchurchrowley
- Did you know we have a weekly inspirational message? It's on our website at www.firstchurchrowley.org on the home page and on the messages page.
- Did you know we have a blog? Also located on our website, there's a blog page where Penny posts for the Compassionate Care Network.
- Did you know that each Sunday's message is ALSO on our Website? Located with the Messages.
- Ballroom Dancing Classes are coming to FCoR, information will be available soon.
- Getting To Know Us (GTKU) meets on Wednesday mornings. It's a nice way to connect with people from the church in a spiritual and friendly way. Stop in some Wednesday and say hi. 10am

