



First Congregational Church of Rowley

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Knock and the door will open

Flowers on the Communion Table – in honor of Jerry and Nancy Schmidt in
celebration of their wedding anniversary

Deacons – Nicola Pyburn and Jen Loring

Lay Reader – Les Warren

Audio Visual – Nancy Schmidt

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Les Warren

Leader: Are you weary from the stresses of this week?

People: Weariness and stress have been our constant companions.

Leader: Let the love of God wash over you, relieving your stress and weariness.

People: We praise God for such abundant compassion to us.

Leader: Let the word of God enter your hearts and spirits, giving you hope.

Leader & People: May our lives reflect God's abundant love and peace. AMEN.

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

Les Warren

Lord of Hope and Peace, we have come this day asking for your mercy. Grant us your pardon. We have come this day seeking peace in our lives; grant us peace. Teach us how to be compassionate disciples for you. For we ask this in Christ's name. AMEN.

Reflections on Our Opening Song

Rev. Tom Bentley

Opening Song: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" <https://youtu.be/bhOha4AcoMY>

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Draws us through the Son of man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us onward
In the triumph song of life.

New Testament Reading

Les Warren

Colossians 2:6-10 The Message

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well-constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: "Seek and Ye Shall Find" *sung by Jim Croce*

<https://youtu.be/oAjzEQgZBh0>

Chorus:

Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened
Ask and it shall be given
And the love come tricklin' down (2x)

Chorus (1x)

My sisters the Lord has been here
My sisters the Lord has been here
My sisters the Lord has been here
And the love come tricklin' down

My brothers the Lord has been here
My brothers the Lord has been here
My brothers the Lord has been here
And the love come tricklin' down

Chorus

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

Les Warren

Luke 11:1-13 The Message

One day he was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, “Master, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

So he said, “When you pray, say,

Father,
Reveal who you are.
Set the world right.
Keep us alive with three square meals.
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.”

Then he said, “Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don’t have a thing on hand.’

“The friend answers from his bed, ‘Don’t bother me. The door’s locked; my children are all down for the night; I can’t get up to give you anything.’

"But let me tell you, even if he won't get up because he's a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need.

"Here's what I'm saying:

Ask and you'll get;
Seek and you'll find;
Knock and the door will open.

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your little boy asks for a serving of fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? If your little girl asks for an egg, do you trick her with a spider? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?"

Message: 'Seek and You'll Find"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: "Go My Children With My Blessing <https://youtu.be/edq3iV4sw6o>

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love's baptismal river, I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory,
Go My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children, I will keep you and give you peace.

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Upcoming at FCoR:

MONDAYS

9:30 – 10:30am CoA Fitness Group

TUESDAYS

5:30 – 6:30pm Ballroom Dancing

WEDNESDAYS

10am – 12pm GTKU - Getting to Know Us

1 – 2pm YMCA - Fitness Group

5:30 – 6:30pm Ballroom Dancing

THURSDAYS

9:30 – 10:30am COA Fitness Group

3 – 6pm Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open

7 – 8:15pm Alanon

FRIDAYS

1 – 2pm YMCA-Fitness Group

5:30 – 7pm Boy Scouts

SATURDAYS

9am – 1pm Fellowship Thrift Shop

7 – 9pm AA

TUESDAY, JULY 26

6:30pm Compassionate Care Network

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

1pm Missions Walk, location TBA

SATURDAY, SEPT 17

Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament

Far Corner Golf Course, Boxford, MA

8am registration

9am Tee time

After Tournament Event w/lunch 2pm

Contact Debbie Confalone at 781-290-6502

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