

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Morning Worship
Pentecost Sunday
Worship Service - May 23, 2021 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Don Thurston

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Inspire our hearts with your fiery presence!

All: Let your flame burn within us, stirring us to action.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Energize our lives to work for God.

All: Let your wind of hope swirl around us, lifting and moving us from complacency.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Pour your blessing on us.

All: Let your presence challenge us to proclaim God's presence and love in everything we say and do. AMEN.



Opening Song "Forward Through the Ages" (see lyrics below)

<https://youtu.be/gOfnOxys3JM>

New Testament Reading Acts 2: 1-21 *The Message*

Don Thurston

When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene;

Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit On those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy. I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, Blood and fire and billowing smoke, the sun turning black and the moon blood-red, Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous; And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."

Reception of New Members (*see insert*)

Moment of Music. "Will You Come and Follow Me" ("The Summons" by John Bell) (*see lyrics below*). <https://youtu.be/eAYM8pWCwWk>

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 **John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15** **The Message** **Don Thurston**

"When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me. You, too, from your side must give your confirming evidence, since you are in this with me from the start."

But now I am on my way to the One who sent me. Not one of you has asked, 'Where are you going?' Instead, the longer I've talked, the sadder you've become. So let me say it again, this truth: It's better for you that I leave. If I don't leave, the Friend won't come. But if I go, I'll send him to you.

“When he comes, he’ll expose the error of the godless world’s view of sin, righteousness, and judgment: He’ll show them that their refusal to believe in me is their basic sin; that righteousness comes from above, where I am with the Father, out of their sight and control; that judgment takes place as the ruler of this godless world is brought to trial and convicted.

“I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won’t draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I’ve said, ‘He takes from me and delivers to you.’

Message: “Forward Through the Ages”

Closing Song: “Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise” *(see lyrics below)*.

<https://youtu.be/vSpz4WU2qpk>

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Hi Friends.

As you know, we will be going back to Sunday services "indoors" starting 5/9. The Flower Committee has openings in June for the communion table .

Please contact Deb Confalone if you're interested: dconfalone@comcast.net, 781-290-6502.



The Flower Committee

SAVE THE DATE!!! More details to follow in the June Steeple Notes edition.

For now:
Annual Ezekiel Rogers Golf Fundraiser
Saturday, September 18th
Far Corners Golf
Boxford, MA



Looking for golfers and volunteers on the day of the event. Please contact Debbie Confalone at dconfalone@comcast.net or 781.290.6502.

Meetings

- **Missions Meeting**
- 5/19/21 @8pm
- For Zoom info, contact Danby, Holly or the office.
- **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 5/25 @6:30pm
- Contact office for Zoom info



PARTICIPANTS

Minister: Rev Tom Bentley **Music Director:** Karl Schmuch
Lay Reader: Don Thurston
Deacon: Jerry Schmidt **Deaconess:** Nicola Pyburn

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, dvd Irving@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, schmidtnancy36@gmail.com, jschmidt22@comcast.net; or Les Warren (978) 352-7551; leswarren3@gmail.com.

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)	Al Locke
Family of Doris Bradstreet	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)	Helen Dobbins
Gerry Ernstrom	Billy Prime
Robbie Marshall	Bill Glynn and Family
Lisa Levandowski and family	Colin Wilson (Rhonda Ward's father)
Arnold and Patti Cisco	Douglas Stoddard (Judy Robillard's son)

Flowers on the Communion Table today are given by Nicola and Glen Pyburn in memory of Jean Taylor and Mary Campbell.

Please help us congratulate and welcome our new members:

- Holly Ardito
- Paul Chang
- Angie Estevez
- Eric Fila
- Anthony C. Mariniello
- Anthony M. Mariniello
- Debra Mariniello
- Samantha Mariniello



“Forward Through the Ages”

<https://youtu.be/gOfnOxys3JM>

**Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.
Gifts in diff'ring measure,
Hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service,
One the sure reward;**

Refrain:

**Forward through the ages,
In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits
At the call divine.**

**Wider grows the kingdom,
Reign of love and light;
For it we must labor,
Till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it,
Martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory,
Heroes for it died. [Refrain]**

**Not alone we conquer,
Not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph
Lose or triumph all.
Bound by God's far purpose
In one living whole,
Move we on together
To the shining goal! [Refrain]**

“Will You Come and Follow Me” (“The Summons” by John Bell) <https://youtu.be/eAYM8pWCwWk>

**Will you come and follow me, If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise”

<https://youtu.be/vSpz4WU2qpk>

**Savior, again to your dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We give you thanks before our worship cease,
And now departing, wait your word of peace.**

**Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
With you began, with you shall end the day.
Guard now the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon your name.**

**Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life:
Comfort in sorrow, courage in the strife.
Then when your voice shall make our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.**