



First Congregational Church of Rowley

United Church of Christ

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, October 23, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Deacons – Les Warren and Ken Sanford

Lay Reader – Patti Cummings

Today's AV Tech – Paul Chang



Flowers on the Communion Table today

In loving memory of Lt. Robert L. Hale by his family

Please join us for coffee after the service

We are a church that lives by faith, is known by love...a voice of hope serving the community

FirstChurchRowley.org

October 23, 2022

FirstChurchRowley@gmail.com

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Patti Cummings

Leader: Place your trust in the Lord.

People: God shall heal our suffering and pain.

Leader: Place your faith in God's abiding presence.

People: We shall be strengthened.

Leader: Place your lives always in God's care.

Leader & People: We shall be made whole in the Lord of all compassion. AMEN.

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

Patti Cummings

Lord, throughout the world today, Christians are struggling to live your Way of Love despite the human tendency for hate and cruelty to overwhelm us. We come together with a hunger for hope to set against this strife. Help us to receive your Grace that comes from your infinite array of blessings. May this nourishment of our souls strengthen us for the conflict and renew us again as instruments of your Peace and Reconciling Love. Amen

Opening Song: Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

When life's sun sinks in the west
Lord, may I have done my best
May I find sweet peace and rest
In that happy home of the blessed

I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keep me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

Just a closer walk with Thee
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea
Daily walking close to Thee
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be
(Just a closer walk with thee)

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me shall be no more
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore

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New Testament Reading

2 Timothy: 4: 6-8 *The Message*

Patti Cummings

You take over. I'm about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. All that's left now is the shouting—God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: From Whom All Blessings Flow

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 18: 9-14 *The Message* Patti Cummings

He told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: "Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee

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posed and prayed like this: ‘Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.’

“Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, ‘God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.’”

Jesus commented, “This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you’re going to end up flat on your face, but if you’re content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

Message: “Control Freaks in a World of Suffering”

Closing Song : Take My Life, Let It Be

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee
Swift and beautiful for Thee
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Take my will and make it thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
It shall be Thy royal throne

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley