



First Congregational Church of Rowley

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Youth fades;

Love droops;

The leaves of friendship fall;

A Mother's secret hope outlives them all

Flowers on Communion Table, Sunday, May 8

Given by Ken and Pam Sanford in celebration of our children and grandchildren

Deacons – Jen Loring and Penny Hurley

Lay Reader – Karl Schmuck

A/V – Eric Fila

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Karl Schmuch

Leader: God is our shepherd. We can depend on God.

People: God brings us hope and peace.

Leader: Through trials and tribulations, God continually provides abundantly for us.

People: Even when we doubt and turn away, God is constant in God's faithful love.

Leader: God's love continually flows through our lives.

Leader & People : In the midst of the multitude, we will praise God in song, worship, and service. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Karl Schmuch

With joy we come this day to the house of the Lord. God provides for us abundantly even when we doubt and fear, even when we turn away. God is faithful. Open our hearts today, O Lord, to hear your word for us that we may become faithful disciples of our Lord all our days. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession

Karl Schmuch

Anger, hatred, anguish blare at us from the newspapers, media. The shouts of hurt and pain harden our hearts, merciful God. We cannot bear the hurts, so we turn away. We hide and want the hurt to disappear. When we hear the words of the Psalmist singing about the green pastures, still waters, our souls long for this place of peace. We think that it can be found outside ourselves, yet this is a reminder of the peace and hope that your love offers us from within. We know that we will have struggles and hard times, but help us, Lord, to place our lives in your care, to trust in your comfort and guidance. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your compassionate love. Heal us again and place us on the right path. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Rev. Tom Bentley

Do not fear! You can place your trust in God, for God will lead you, comfort you, protect you. You are not alone to face all the difficulties of life. God is with you and will lift you up. Rejoice, for you are loved by God.

Opening Song: “Thine Be the Glory” #193 PH

<https://youtu.be/FTXUsKFecJs>

New Testament Reading

Karl Schmuck

Revelation 7:9-17 *The Message*

I looked again. I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were *standing*, dressed in white robes and waving palm branches, standing before the Throne and the Lamb and heartily singing:

Salvation to our God on his Throne!

Salvation to the Lamb!

All who were standing around the Throne—Angels, Elders, Animals—fell on their faces before the Throne and worshiped God, singing:

Oh, Yes!

The blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving,

The honor and power and strength,

To our God forever and ever and ever!

Oh, Yes!

Just then one of the Elders addressed me: “Who are these dressed in white robes, and where did they come from?” Taken aback, I said, “O Sir, I have no idea—but you must know.”

Then he told me, “These are those who come from the great tribulation, and they’ve washed their robes, scrubbed them clean in the blood of the Lamb. That’s why they’re standing before God’s Throne. They serve him day and night in his Temple. The One on the Throne will pitch his tent there for them: no more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat. The Lamb on the Throne will shepherd them, will lead them to spring waters of Life. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes.”

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: “The Universe is Singing a Song”

https://youtu.be/gF_rrVQ7xM

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 John 10:22-30 *The Message*

Karl Schmuck

They were celebrating Hanukkah just then in Jerusalem. It was winter. Jesus was strolling in the Temple across Solomon's Porch. The Jews, circling him, said, "How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you're the Messiah, tell us straight out."

Jesus answered, "I told you, but you don't believe. Everything I have done has been authorized by my Father, actions that speak louder than words. You don't believe because you're not my sheep. My sheep recognize my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him. I and the Father are one heart and mind."

Message: "Revelation Revealed in Creation"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: "We Live by Faith and Not by Sight" NCH #256

<https://youtu.be/z50HteIPWi8>

Benediction

Rev. Tom Bentley

Thine Be the Glory #193 PH
<https://youtu.be/FTXUsKFecJs>

Refrain:

Thine be the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won

Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where thy body lay

Refrain

Lo! Jesus meets thee,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets thee,
Scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting.

Refrain

No more we doubt thee,
Glorious Prince of life
Life is naught without thee;
Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
Through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To thy home above.

Refrain

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”
NCH #256
<https://youtu.be/z50HteIPWi8>

We live by faith and not by sight;
No gracious words we hear
From Christ who spoke as
None e'ever spoke,
Who still we know is near.

We may not touch
Christ's hands and side,
Nor follow where Christ trod;
But in confessing
We rejoice: our Savior and our God!

Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;
And may our faith abound
To call on you when you are near
And seek where you are found;

That, when our life of faith is done,
In realms of clearer light
We may behold you as you are,
With full and endless sight.

Coming up at First Church...

Wednesday	10am	Getting to Know Us, study group
Thursday	3-6pm	Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open
	7pm	Al Anon
Saturday	9am-1pm	Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open
	7pm	AA
Sunday	10am	Worship <i>(Sunday School 1st and 3rd Sunday)</i>
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday	1pm-2pm	Council on Aging Fitness Groups
Tuesday, May 10	7pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Saturday, May 14	8-9:30am	Pancake Breakfast (\$8)
Saturday, May 14	9am-1pm	Annual Plant Sale (rain date 5/21)
Wednesday, May 18	7pm	Diaconate Meeting
Saturday, May 21	12-3pm	Celebration of Life for Michael Glynn
Tuesday, May 24	6:30pm	Compassionate Care Network
Wednesday, May 25	7pm	Trustee Meeting
Sunday, May 29	10am	Guest Pastor, Ian Holland from Swampscott After Church conversation with Pastor Holland

Save the date: Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament, September 17, 2022