



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service
Sunday, February 20, 2022

Tune to FM 90.3

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship (Luke 6)

Leader: Come and learn the ways of life.

People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.

People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Leader: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Leader and People: We have come to follow Jesus.

Come and learn the ways of life.

Opening Prayer:

Penny Hurley

Loving God, we come before you today, seeking your blessings and your protection from the allure of sin.

Heal us with your love, that we might love one another. Show us the truth we have found in Jesus.

Embolden our courage, that we may seize the opportunities you place before us. Strengthen our resolve to spread your word and ways, and remind us that your guidance is always present through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Song "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" <https://youtu.be/1VT-kyKUvUk>

Old Testament Reading

Penny Hurley

Psalm 37: 1-11 *The Message*

Don't bother your head with braggarts
or wish you could succeed like the wicked.
In no time they'll shrivel like grass clippings
and wilt like cut flowers in the sun.
Get insurance with God and do a good deed,
settle down and stick to your last.

Keep company with God,
get in on the best.
Open up before God, keep nothing back;
he'll do whatever needs to be done:
He'll validate your life in the clear light of day
and stamp you with approval at high noon.
Quiet down before God,
be prayerful before him.
Don't bother with those who climb the ladder,
who elbow their way to the top.
Bridle your anger, trash your wrath,
cool your pipes—it only makes things worse.
Before long the crooks will be bankrupt;
God-investors will soon own the store.
Before you know it, the wicked will have had it;
you'll stare at his once famous place and—nothing!
Down-to-earth people will move in and take over,
relishing a huge bonanza.

Moment of Music. “Love Your Enemies” sung by Kyle Sigmon <https://youtu.be/MnVjNaBfQLO>

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

Penny Hurley

Luke 6:27-38 *The Message*

“To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more payback. Live generously.

“Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for *them*! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

“I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.

“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don’t condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you’ll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

Message: “Living Out the God-Created Identity”

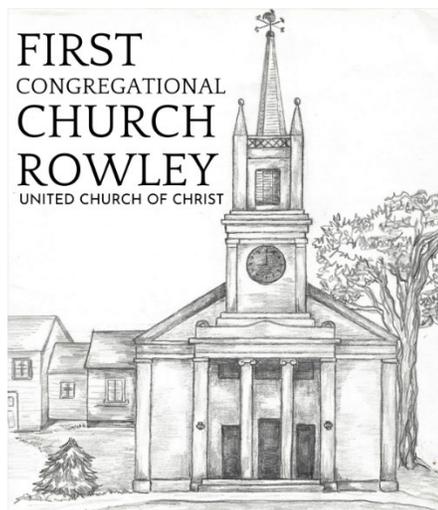
Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: “We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness” <https://youtu.be/6p0bNdev9fc>

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Deacons: Jen Loring and Les Warren



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*Does anyone know who drew this picture of the church?
It would be nice to credit the artist.*

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"

<https://youtu.be/1VT-kyKUvUk>

Jesus, Savior, pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rocks and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee—
Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

When at last I near the shore,
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest—
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not— I will pilot thee!"
Jesus Savior pilot me.

"Love Your Enemies" sung by Kyle Sigmon

<https://youtu.be/MnVjNaBfQL0>

You've heard it said
An eye for an eye, and tooth for a tooth
But I say to you
Do not resist an evil doer

Turn the other cheek, go the extra mile
Shed another layer, love your Enemy

You've heard it said Love your neighbor, hate
your enemies
But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for
them

Turn the other cheek, go the extra mile,
shed another layer, love your enemies

What good is it to love the ones that love you?
What gain is there to only greet your family?
What good is it to love the one who love you?
What gain is there to only greet your family?

Love your enemies (4x)

Turn the other cheek, go the extra mile,
shed another layer, love your enemies
(2x)

"We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

<https://youtu.be/6p0bNdev9fc>

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your
healing touch;
Too long have we felt helpless; our burdens
seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses, we make our pleadings
heard,
In hope and expectation await your gracious
word.
await your gracious word.

We long to have companions who travel by our
side,
Strong friends to call and answer with whom we
are allied;
As we lift up each other when struggles lay us
low,
Community develops, our faith and caring grow.
our faith and caring grow.

We need your living presence, O Christ of
Galilee,
A presence that revives us and sets our spirits
free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades
each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing
grace.
to claim your healing grace.