

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – March 28, 2021 @ 10am
Palm Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Susan Hazen

Leader: Let all creation shout!

All: Let us wave the palm branches high. Jesus is coming!

Leader: He comes in humility to claim God's own.

All: May he claim us this day and heal our hearts!

Leader: Hosanna to the Son of David.

All: Hosanna to the blessed Son of God. AMEN.

Opening Song "Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!" <https://youtu.be/4tkB1F9zLVo>

New Testament Reading Philippians 2:1-13 *The Message*

Susan Hazen

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God's* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

Moment of Music What Wonderful Love is This? <https://youtu.be/uP0tEceh8Bg>

Joys and Concerns (*prayer requests can be texted to 978-973-2362*)

Time of Silence

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

Mark 14:1-11 *The Message*

Susan Hazen

In only two days the eight-day Festival of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread would begin. The high priests and religion scholars were looking for a way they could seize Jesus by stealth and kill him. They agreed that it should not be done during Passover Week. "We don't want the crowds up in arms," they said.

Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper. While he was eating dinner, a woman came up carrying a bottle of very expensive perfume. Opening the bottle, she poured it on his head. Some of the guests became furious among themselves. "That's criminal! A sheer waste! This perfume could have been sold for well over a year's wages and handed out to the poor." They swelled up in anger, nearly bursting with indignation over her.

But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why are you giving her a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives. Whenever you feel like it, you can do something for them. Not so with me. She did what she could when she could—she pre-anointed my body for burial. And you can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she just did is going to be talked about admiringly."

Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the cabal of high priests, determined to betray him. They couldn't believe their ears, and promised to pay him well. He started looking for just the right moment to hand him over.

Message: "Love Beyond Measure"

Closing Music "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" sung by Fernando Ortega

<https://youtu.be/UgkVTtT-0xg>

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

“Ride on, Ride on in Majesty!” <https://youtu.be/4tkB1F9zLVo>

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
Thy humble beast, pursue his road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.**

**Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain
Then take, O God, Thy power and reign.**

“What Wondrous Love is This” <https://youtu.be/uP0tEceh8Bg>

**What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

O Sacred Head Now Wounded sung by Fernando Ortega

<https://youtu.be/UgkVTtT-0xg>

O sacred Head, now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown
How pale thou art with anguish
With sore abuse and scorn
How does that visage languish
Which once was bright as morn

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
T'was all for sinners' gain
Mine, mine was the transgression
But Thine the deadly pain
Lo, here I fall, my Savior
'Tis I deserve Thy place
Look on me with Thy favor
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest friend
For this Thy dying sorrow
Thy pity without end
O make me Thine forever
And should I fainting be
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love for Thee

Announcements

PROCESSION OF THE PALMS



PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Palms will be handed out on Palm Sunday along with your bulletins. (If you're reading this on Sunday, at the Drive In Service, make sure you get one.)

Afterwards, we will have a Drive-By Procession around the Rowley Common after our church service. We plan on leaving the church parking lot at 10:40am.

We hope you will join us.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held on April 4 @620am at the Landing.

Additional information about the Easter Sunrise Service will be sent out through email this week, posted on Facebook and on our website.

Thank you.



SUSPICIOUS COMMUNICATION

It has come to our attention once again that some of you may have received a suspicious message from "Reverend Tom" asking for assistance. The difference with this message is that it was not sent by email - this time spoofer used text messaging. Please remember that Reverend Tom would never ask you for financial assistance, gifts, gift cards, etc... For financial support to the church you will always receive a mailing and/or direct phone call.

Please do not download any documents or click on any links that may be sent to you. And do NOT communicate with the sender. Electronic communication has become prone to fraud. We will do every effort to prevent false solicitations through email or texts. We apologize for the confusion and inconvenience.

In the meantime in order to best protect your contact information, **we have removed our "Steeple Notes" newsletter from public view on the website**, as some of our publications contain the "Board, Officers, Committee and Staff" directory which lists some telephone numbers and email addresses. Should you need to obtain an old newsletter or someone's contact information, please email the church office.



PARTICIPANTS

Minister: Rev Tom Bentley
Lay Reader: Susan Hazen
Deacon: Ken Sanford

Music Director: Karl Schmuck
Deaconess: Penny Hurley

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
Doris Bradstreet (Residence at Riverbend)	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)
Beverly Phillips	Pat and Steve True
Elaine Pyburn (resident at Sunrise in Lynnfield)	Dede Todd
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)	Audrey Corby
Helen Dobbins	Gerry Ernstrom
Billy Prime	Robbie Marshall
Bill Glynn and Family	Lisa Levandowski and family
Colin Wilson (Rhonda Ward's father)	

Welcome to a *Maundy Thursday Agape Meal* A Virtual “Peace Meal” of Love and Togetherness



This Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) evening April 1st at 7:00 PM we are all invited to an online Agape Meal to be eaten in our homes with others in our congregation joined together via Zoom. We will gather together to remember the night that Jesus was betrayed. This is also the night he gave to us the sacrament of the “Lord’s Supper”.

For our time we will come together in an informal way. We will be invited to share our reflections about the past year, lift up any blessings we have felt about our faith family, and then listen as we hear read some of the scripture passages that relate to the events of this evening over 2000 years ago.

When Jesus shared Passover with his disciples, it was in the home tradition and setting of the Passover meal. The sharing of bread, wine, and hearty dishes. In this home setting Jesus gave us his “new commandment” to love one another. All happened in a home - in a room where Jesus drew his friends together as host, teacher, friend, and master who was there to serve them all. This is not a formal Passover meal in the Jewish tradition, but it does contain the sense of that unique way to break bread together.

Maundy Thursday may be considered, at its heart, a homely affair. During this extraordinary time that requires us to practice social distancing in order to help protect everyone from the rapid spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, we are being taken back to our households as our base-point. In this we actually have a blessing as our technologies for joining others in fellowship can connect us even when we are alone in our households. We can join with each other on this holy night, as we pray, sing, and hear the Word of God while we eat and share together, each in our own homes yet joined in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

To prepare your home for the service, please do the following –

- Prepare a simple meal to share in your home that is fitting with your own dietary requirements and Lenten fast.
- We are reflecting what a household meal in early Palestine might offer. For this evening Jesus is our special guest and we give him the place of honor at the table. For our Agape Meal simple foods are preferred. Salads, soups, meatless proteins, cooked lamb, cheeses, olive oil for dipping, dried and fresh fruits and nuts, simple grains or pastas, honey, dried and smoked fish. Whatever you think is the food they may have shared in the Upper Room that night. **(Please include bread and wine (or grape juice) as we will be having a time for communion.)**
- Set your space for your meal, with a laptop, tablet, cell phone, or internet-connected screen in the room where it can be near and visible to everyone during the meal and you can speak into your device or microphone.
- Make sure your device is connected to the internet. We will be using Zoom and it would be best to download this app necessary for our shared online worship gathering. The Zoom Link will be sent out to everyone prior to the event and it will be on our website.
- Set your table with your meal, and bring a Bible or other readings if you wish. You may light a couple of candles if that is safe.
- Be prepared to clear your table completely at the conclusion of the service.
- At the designated time for your gathering congregation, link up to your shared online service for the beginning of this Maundy Thursday and Agape Meal liturgy. Then take your places at your table to partake in the meal and to participate as you are able in the hearing of the Word, the sharing of your reflections, the remembering of Jesus Christ’s own sharing of himself in the first Holy Eucharist, and readying ourselves to follow Jesus to the Cross. Finally, to make the event more personal folks will be invited by Rev. Tom, from time to time, to read some of the scripture passages which appear on the screen.
- A PowerPoint display of graphics, readings, and musical moments will guide us along through the evening

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Rowley, Massachusetts

March 15, 2021

To: The Members and Friends, First Congregational Church, U.C.C., Rowley
Rowley, Massachusetts

The 381st Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2021 beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. immediately after the 10:00 a.m. drive-in worship service.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting are:

1. To hear and act on annual reports of the various officers, boards, and committees from the previous year.
2. To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee (elections).
3. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the church membership.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Irving

David E. Irving, Clerk