

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ**  
**The Order of Morning Worship**  
**Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – August 23, 2020 @ 10am**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Call to Worship (Psalm 124)**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

**ALL: We belong to God.**

Leader: When we feel overwhelmed,

**All: God is on our side.**

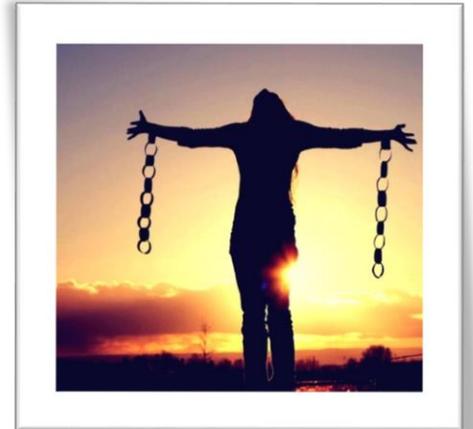
Leader: When we are afraid,

**All: God will keep us safe.**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

**All: Blessed be the Lord!**

**Sara Stafford**



**Opening Song “Arise Your Light Is Come”** *(see attached lyrics)*

**New Testament Reading**

**Sara Stafford**

**Romans 12:1-3. *The Message***

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

I’m speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it’s important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

**Moment of Music. “Amazing Grace/ My Chains are Gone”**

**Sara Stafford**

**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**

**Sara Stafford**

### **Matthew 16:13-20. *The Message***

When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

He pressed them, "And how about you? Who do you say I am?"

Simon Peter said, "You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus came back, "God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

"And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."

He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

## **Message: "How to Be a Spiritual Grownup "**

## **Benediction**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Roles for Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>:**

**Minister: Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Musical Moment: Sara Stafford**

**Music Director: Karl Schmuck**

**Lay Reader: Sara Stafford**

**Deaconess: Nicola Pyburn**

**Deacon: Jerry Schmidt**

## LYRICS

### **Arise, Your Light Is Come**

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God, Which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captives' liberty, Good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Build up the broken-hearted ones, And comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

### **Amazing Grace / My Chains are gone**

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found.  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, My Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His Mercy reigns  
Unending Love, Amazing Grace

The Lord Has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, My Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His Mercy reigns  
Unending Love, Amazing Grace (Again)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.