



# First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley

Deacons: Ken Sanford and Nicola Pyburn

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

**People: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!**

Leader: Come and let us worship with great joy!

**People: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!**

Leader: God is about to do something new!

**Leader and People: Let God's will become strong in our lives. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Penny Hurley**

**We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts.**

**Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you.**

**Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. AMEN.**

**Opening Song: Be Thou My Vision** <https://youtu.be/hJ41EFfdEqk>

**Old Testament Reading**

**Penny Hurley**

**Isaiah 43:16-21 *The Message***

This is what God says,

the God who builds a road right through the ocean,  
who carves a path through pounding waves,

The God who summons horses and chariots and armies—

they lie down and then can't get up;  
they're snuffed out like so many candles:

"Forget about what's happened;

don't keep going over old history.

Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.

It's bursting out! Don't you see it?

There it is! I'm making a road through the desert,  
rivers in the badlands.

Wild animals will say 'Thank you!'

—the coyotes and the buzzards—

Because I provided water in the desert,

rivers through the sunbaked earth,

Drinking water for the people I chose,

the people I made especially for myself,

a people custom-made to praise me.

## Call to Offering

**Moment of Music Moment of Music What Wonderous Love is This?**

<https://youtu.be/uP0tEceh8Bg>

## 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

Penny Hurley

### John 12:1-11 *The Message*

Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house.

Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, "Why wasn't this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces." (The Elder Son and "Righteous" Resentments) He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them.

Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honoring the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you. You don't always have me."

Word got out among the Jews that he was back in town. The people came to take a look, not only at Jesus but also at Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead. So, the high priests plotted to kill Lazarus because so many of the Jews were going over and believing in Jesus on account of him.

**Message: "The Art of Seeing the Invisible" Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion (See Insert)**



**Closing Song: "We Are Marching in the Light of God" <https://youtu.be/BS0EuyMdxU>**

**Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley**

*Flowers on the Altar given by David and Donna Irving in celebration of their children and grandchildren*

Deacons: A/V: Eric Fila

## ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION - Rev. Tom Bentley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Most loving and gracious God. Forgive our sins; those we commit knowingly and those we do without perception of how they hurt others. Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit to hear your truth, to understand our failure and to reach a new level of understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

All: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven

COMMUNION PRAYER - Rev. Tom Bentley

The pastor says "...and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and  
Might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

The pastor says: Let us unite in the words of remembrance...

All: We remember and give thanks for such love and goodness, and mercy.

WORDS OF BLESSING - Rev. Tom Bentley

HOLY COMMUNION

The pastor will offer instructions as how to receive the elements, and when to eat the bread and drink the unfermented wine.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)

Almighty God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

BENEDICTION

## **Be thou my vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
be thou my best thought  
in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping,  
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,  
be thou ever with me, and I with thee Lord;  
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my whole armor,  
be thou my true might;  
be thou my soul's shelter,  
be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward,  
great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
be thou mine inheritance now and always;  
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **“What Wondrous Love is This”**

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.

**'We Are marching in the Light of God'**

<https://youtu.be/BS0EuyMdxU>

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are marching, marching,  
We are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are living in the love of God,  
We are living in the love of God,

(Repeat)

We are living, living,  
We are living, living,  
We are living in the love of God,

(Repeat)

[Instrumental]

We are living in the love of God,  
We are living in the love of God,

(Repeat)

We are living, living,  
We are living, living,  
We are living in the love of God,

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are marching, marching,  
We are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

**Prayer List**

- Kim Cyr
- Joyce Ernstrom
- Mary Hartman
- Millie Gates
- Beverley Phillips
- Pat and Steve True

Margaret Niska has moved to Haverhill Crossings, keep her in your prayers.

If you would like to send a card the address is:

Haverhill Crossing  
254 Amesbury Road  
Haverhill, MA 01830

Visitors will be allowed in May

**Lenten Series**

Monday, April 4, at 7pm and  
April 11 at 6:30pm  
In Person in the Church Parlor  
or on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:  
[bit.ly/Rowley-Lent-Series](https://bit.ly/Rowley-Lent-Series)

Meeting ID: 864 0164 0638  
Passcode: 16391639

# Easter Lily and Tulip Orders

Easter Lily single stem \$12



Tulip multi-stem in 6.5" pot  
\$11  
pink, lavender, white, yellow, red



**Please Order by April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Contact Debbie Confalone

[dconfalone@comcast.net](mailto:dconfalone@comcast.net)

781-290-6502

Please Order \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies and/or \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips (Colors \_\_\_\_\_)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor / memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ (self addressed envelopes are located at the entrances)

# Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, 2022 - 11:00 am

**First Congregational Church of Rowley**

175 Main Street, Rowley, MA 01969

[www.firstchurchrowley.org](http://www.firstchurchrowley.org)



