



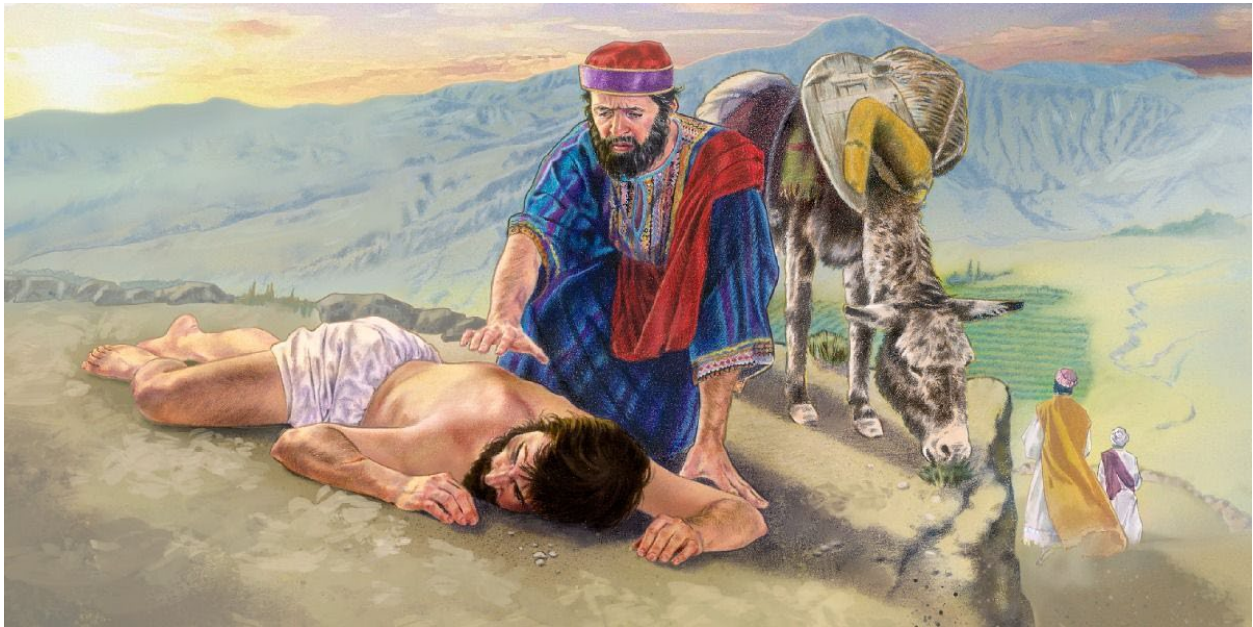
First Congregational Church of Rowley

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, July 10, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Flowers on the Communion Table – given by Mr. and Mrs. David Irving in memory
of our fathers, Rev. Leslie Irving and Harold Hurlbert

Flowers on the Chancel Wall – given by Chuck and Jen Loring in memory of
William and Francis Loring

Deacons – Nancy and Jerry Schmidt

Lay Reader – Sara Stafford

Audio Visual – Eric Fila

Please join us for fellowship after the service

Call to Worship

Sara Stafford

Leader: The world cries to us in its distress. How shall we answer?

People: We cannot pass by as though nothing is wrong.

Leader: How shall we answer?

People: We cannot become so focused on ourselves that others mean nothing to us.

Leader: How shall we answer?

Leader & People: We shall be the neighbor in service, reconciliation, and compassion wherever we can. In Jesus' Holy Name. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (In unison)

Sara Stafford

Lord of justice and mercy, we come to you this day seeking your healing and reconciling love. Help us to be open to your word, your presence, your compassion. Clear our hearts of those things which block your will. Keep us focused on your enabling power so that we, having been healed, may more fully serve you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Prayer of Confession: (*in unison*)

Sara Stafford

Lord, sometimes we are confused. We hear the bad news continually shouted on TV, radio, in the newspapers, magazines. The whole world seems to be shrieking in pain. Innocent people are being destroyed by the whims of the wicked. Disease and pestilence reign supreme in too many parts of the world. We turn an indifferent ear to the cries of others, often because we are so overwhelmed by the needs and feel helpless in the face of such chaos. We close our eyes. We walk away, often crossing over to the side of self-importance and indifference because we are afraid to become involved. Our society is quick to sue and slow to heal. We succumb to those pressures in our fear. Help us, O Lord. Heal our spirits as well as our bodies. Open our hearts and our eyes to see you, O Christ, that we may be empowered to service rather than apathy. Forgive us, Lord, forgive us. Make us ready to truly become your disciples. For we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance:**Rev. Tom Bentley**

Do not be afraid. God's love is reaching out to you, to touch your hurt and wounds and to provide healing. Receive God's blessing and be assured of God's eternal love for you. AMEN.

Opening Song: Rain Down. <https://youtu.be/pmOswvIS6CQ> Songwriter: Cortez Jaime

Refrain:

Rain down

Rain down

Rain down your love on your people

Rain down

Rain down

Rain down your love, God of life

Faithful and true is the Word of our God
All of God's works are so worthy of trust
God's mercy falls on the just and the right
Full of God's love is the earth

Refrain

We who revere and find hope in our God
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing
God will protect us from darkness and death
God will not leave us to starve

Refrain

God of creation, we long for Your truth
You are the water of life that we thirst
Grant that Your love and peace touch our hearts
All of our hope lies in You.

Refrain

New Testament Reading**Sara Stafford****Colossians 1:5-8. The Message**

The Message is as true among you today as when you first heard it. It doesn't diminish or weaken over time. It's the same all over the world. The Message bears fruit and gets larger and stronger, just as it has in you. From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you've been hungry for more. It's as vigorous in you now as when you learned it from our friend and close associate Epaphras. He is one reliable worker for Christ! I could always depend on him. He's the one who told us how thoroughly love had been worked into your lives by the Spirit.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: Inspirational Singers

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.**

Luke 10:25-37 The Message

Sara Stafford

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus.

"Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

"Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'

"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

"The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

Message: A Matter of the Heart

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song "Lord I Want To Be a Christian" <https://youtu.be/WFDqcluOSTg>

Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Benediction:

Rev. Thomas Bentley

Please join us for fellowship after the service, we'd love to chat and check in on how everyone's doing during these hot days of summer.

Upcoming at FCoR:

MONDAYS

9:30 – 10:30am CoA Fitness Group

TUESDAYS

5:30 – 6:30pm Ballroom Dancing

WEDNESDAYS

10am – 12pm GTKU - Getting to Know Us

1 – 2pm YMCA - Fitness Group

5:30 – 6:30pm Ballroom Dancing

THURSDAYS

9:30 – 10:30am COA Fitness Group

3 – 6pm Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open

7 – 8:15pm Alanon

FRIDAYS

1 – 2pm YMCA-Fitness Group

5:30 – 7pm Boy Scouts

SATURDAYS

9am – 1pm Fellowship Thrift Shop

7 – 9pm AA

SATURDAY, JULY 17

1pm Missions Walk location TBA

TUESDAY, JULY 26

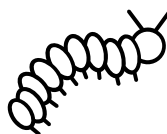
6:30pm Compassionate Care Network

SATURDAY, SEPT 17

Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament

Is anyone interested in doing a Binge Watch of The Chosen during the month of August? Contact Shawna

Reminder, the church is closed on holidays



Creating a day worth living

1. Get up early
2. Express gratitude for what you have
3. Do something productive
4. Do something fun
5. Do something for someone else
6. Get some sunlight
7. Exercise - it doesn't matter what - just do some exercise
8. Put a smile on someone's face
9. Express gratitude or compliment someone
10. Learn or do something new.

That's it -
Now, wasn't that better!!