



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service
Sunday, March 20, 2022
Reverend Thomas Bentley



Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Karl Schmuch

Leader: Seek the Lord while God is to be found.

People: Call upon God while God is near!

Leader: Repent of unrighteous ways.

People: It is never too late to turn to God! Get rid of evil thoughts.

Leader: Let us turn to God, that God may have mercy on us!

For God will pardon our sins and cleanse us of our transgressions.

Leader & People: We will praise God for the new life we have found! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Karl Schmuch

Gracious and eternal God,
you call us into a new way of being,
and give us so many second chances in life.
May your love wash over us,
as we turn toward you
from our sinful ways.
Mold us as your people
in new and powerful ways,
that we may be true disciples
of your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.



Opening Song: "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

<https://youtu.be/t-oyJhy6TqM>

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Karl Schmuck

The Message

Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ.

But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased.

The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance."

We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember, with 23,000 deaths in one day! We must never try to get Christ to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of poisonous snakes. We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent destroyed them.

These are all warning markers—danger! —in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

Call to Offering

Rev. Tom Bentley

Moment of Music: "Create in Me a Clean Heart Oh God"

<https://youtu.be/noUeQQ64Q1I>

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

Rev. Tom Bentley

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Tom Bentley

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Tom Bentley

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 have sinned 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

Karl Schmuck

Luke 13: 1-9. *The Message*

About that time some people came up and told him about the Galileans Pilate had killed while they were at worship, mixing their blood with the blood of the sacrifices on the altar. Jesus responded, "Do you think those murdered Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans? Not at all. Unless you turn to God, you, too, will die. And those eighteen in Jerusalem the other day, the ones crushed and killed when the Tower of Siloam collapsed and fell on them, do you think they were worse citizens than all other Jerusalemites? Not at all. Unless you turn to God, you, too, will die."

Then he told them a story: "A man had an apple tree planted in his front yard. He came to it expecting to find apples, but there weren't any. He said to his gardener, 'What's going on here? For three years now I've come to this tree expecting apples and not one apple have I found. Chop it down! Why waste good ground with it any longer?'

"The gardener said, 'Let's give it another year. I'll dig around it and fertilize, and maybe it will produce next year; if it doesn't, then chop it down.'"

Message: "A new chance for new life in the Spirit"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: God of Second Chances

<https://youtu.be/AgYm2Roj4OQ>

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Scriptural Reference:

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

"The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Red rose in loving memory of Darren and his mother, Louise Shields from the Stoddard and Robillard families.

Deacons: Penny Hurley and Les Warren

Lay Reader: Karl Schmuck

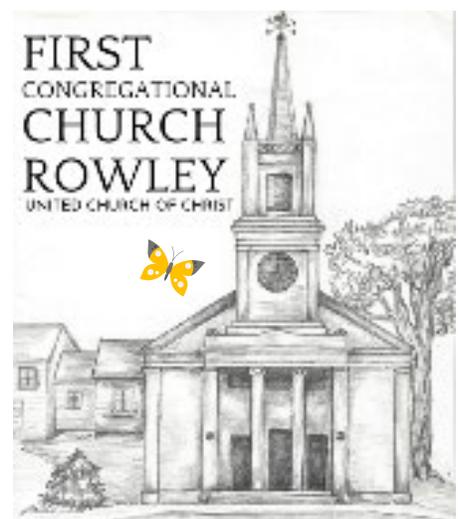
Audio Visual: Eric Fila

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<http://www.firstchurchrowley.org>

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Facebook and Instagram: @FirstChurchRowley



“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

<https://youtu.be/t-oyJhy6TqM>

1. When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer,
To Jesus I repair;
May Jesus Christ be praised!
2. Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
3. Be this, while life is mine,
My song of love divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Sing this eternal song
Through all the ages long:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

“Create in Me a Clean Heart Oh God”

<https://youtu.be/noUeQQ64Q1I>

Create in me a clean heart oh God
Let me be like you in all my ways
Give me your strength, teach me your song
Shelter me in the shadow of your wings
For we are your righteousness
If we die to ourselves and live through your death
Then we shall be born again to be blessed in your
love!

(Sung 3 times)

God of Second Chances

<https://youtu.be/AgYm2RoJ4OQ>

1 You've wandered far away, too far from home
From the Father's love you once have known
You chose to live a life you thought
would satisfy your heart
But now you find yourself lost in the dark

2 You wonder if there'll be another chance
You seem to have gone so far to come home
The pain and shame you feel inside
was more than you can bear
He keeps on calling you but you can't hear

Chorus 1: Come for it's never too late,
arise and reach out for grace
His love for you has never changed
no matter what you have done
He longs to give to you a brand-new start
He's the God of second chances

(Repeat stanza 1, 2, and Chorus 1 excluding the last line)

Chorus 2: So, Come for it's never too late,
arise and reach out for grace
His love for you has never changed
no matter what you have done
He longs to give to you a brand-new start

Ending: He's the God of second chances
He's the God of second chances
He's the God of second chances

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 10th

Contact Debbie Confalone 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)

Lenten Series

with Rev. Tom

Beyond Resistance

Monday Nights

3rd week **Monday, March 21**

7pm-8:15pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bit.ly/Rowley-Lent>

Meeting ID: 829 0300 1188

Passcode: cPm63a

FirstChurchRowley.org

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Calendar

Sunday, March 20 – 1pm

Missions Walk, Cox Reservation in Essex

Tuesday, March 22 - 6:30

Compassionate Care Network

Wednesday, March 23 – 10am GTKU

Getting To Know Us

7pm Trustees Meeting

Thursday, March 24 – 7pm Alanon

3-6pm Thrift Shop Open

Saturday, March 26 - 9am-1pm Thrift Shop

7pm AA

Sunday, March 27 – 10am Worship

11am – All Church Meeting – Assets Mapping

Sunday, April 24 – 11am Annual Church Meeting

978-948-3993

FirstChurchRowley@gmail.com