



First Congregational Church of Rowley

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, July 17, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Mary, Martha and Jesus

Flowers on the Communion Table – given in memory of my son Neal
and my husband Gerry, by Joyce Ernstrom

Deacons – Ken Sanford and Jen Loring

Lay Reader – Les Warren

Audio Visual – Paul Chang

Please join us for fellowship after the service

Snacks provided by the Thrift Shop Team

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Les Warren

Leader: We gather this day from a week filled with needs and demands

People: We come to find rest and renewal of our spirits.

Leader: Open your hearts in love to hear the voice of God.

People: We want to quietly rest in God's presence, free from the clamor of the world.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. AMEN.

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

Les Warren

From the demands and pressures of this past week, we come, O Lord, seeking rest and renewal. Hear the cries of our hearts, our prayers, our needs. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Opening Song: "Love Divine, All Love Excelling"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPsxqQsnzJA>

Love divine all loves excelling
Joy of heav'n to earth come down
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling
All Thy faithful mercies crown
Jesus Thou art all compassion
Pure unbounded love Thou art
Visit us with Thy salvation
Enter every trembling heart

Come Almighty to deliver
Let us all Thy life receive
Suddenly return and never
Nevermore Thy temples leave
Thee we would be always blessing
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above

Pray and praise Thee without
ceasing
Glory in Thy perfect love

Finish then Thy new creation
Pure and spotless let us be
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heav'n we take our place
Till we cast our crowns before Thee
Lost in wonder love and praise

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music : Serenity Song

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.

As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. “Master, don’t you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand.”

The Master said, “Martha, dear Martha, you’re fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it’s the main course, and won’t be taken from her.”

Message: Listening to The Divine Creative Force of Love in the Universe

Closing Song Blessed Be Your Name <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzOm4Sa6Hjc>

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Ev’ry blessing You pour out I’ll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

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. Today's snacks are provided by the Thrift Shop Team.

Volunteers needed for the
Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament

Join Deb Confalone on the committee to
plan the event, volunteer on the day of
the event and or help get Auction items
for the day of event.

Email Dconfalone@comcast.net for
information

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

SUNDAY, JULY 17

1pm Missions Walk, Maudsley Park

TUESDAY, JULY 26

6:30pm Compassionate Care Network

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

1pm Missions Walk, location TBA

SATURDAY, SEPT 17

Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" is a hymn written by Charles Wesley with a theme of "Christian perfection." While the hymn is one of Wesley's best known, it is also considered a prayer. In the prayer of the hymn, we are asking Jesus to enter our hearts, set our hearts free from sin, and make us a new creation in him.

The hymn first appeared in *Wesley's Hymns for those that Seek, and those that Have Redemption* published in 1747.

Wesley is considered to have been influenced by a distinctly pagan popular song of the day, 'Fairest isle, all isles excelling', written by John Dryden for Act 2 of Henry Purcell's opera King Arthur (1691).

The hymn is written around a progression of thoughts: (1) our prayers for the Holy Spirit, (2) praying for the return of our Lord through the second coming, and (3) prayers for the finalization of his new creation.