



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Reverend Tom Bentley

Tune in to FM 90.3

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Penny Hurley

Leader: God is with us always and calls us each by name.

People: When we pass through difficulties and stress,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name.

People: When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

Leader: God is with us and calls us by name, and heals us.

Leader & People: Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name. AMEN.

Opening Prayer of Invocation

Rev. Tom Bentley

Lord of Hope and Light, in the midst of Darkness you offered light to people who lived in fear. Today that light comes to us as we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Open our hearts this day and remind us that you have marked us as people of hope and light. Prepare us to serve you by serving your world. AMEN.

Opening Song "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult, of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice sounding, saying "Christian, follow me!"

Jesus calls us from the worship, of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call;
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all!

New Testament Reading Acts 8:14-17

Penny Hurley

The Message

When the apostles in Jerusalem received the report that Samaria had accepted God's Message, they sent Peter and John down to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Up to this point they had only been baptized in the name of the Master Jesus; the Holy Spirit hadn't yet fallen on them. Then the apostles laid their hands on them and they did receive the Holy Spirit.

Moment of Music: “Send Us Forth”

Joys and Concerns | Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

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 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Penny Hurley

The Message

The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?”

But John intervened: “I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

After all the people were baptized, Jesus was baptized. As he was praying, the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit, like a dove descending, came down on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”

Message: “Mission to Samaria”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: “Go My Children with My Blessing”

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Deacons: Jerry and Nancy Schmidt

Prayer List – January 9

Angie and Eric
Family of Anna Todd
Doug and Beverley Phillips
David and Donna Irving

“Go, My children, with My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love’s baptismal river,
I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory,
Go My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you and give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children, I will keep you and give you peace.

Missions is still collecting Market Basket Cards and warm winter gloves, scarves, hats, and jackets for Triton School. Please contact Danby at danbywhitmore@gmail.com

Check the church calendar online at firstchurchrowley.org for updated schedules.

From **Our Daily Bread**, (Dec. 1)

Hebrews 10:25

**[Let us] not [give] up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,
But [encourage] one another.**

WE NEED OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

I grew up the firstborn son of a Southern Baptist preacher. Every Sunday the expectation was clear: I was to be in church. Possible exceptions? Maybe if I had a significant fever. But the truth is, I absolutely loved going, and I even went a few times feverish. But the world has changed, and the numbers for regular church attendance are not what they used to be. Of course, the quick question is *why*? The answers are many and varied. Author Kathleen Norris counters those answers with a response she received from a pastor to the question “Why do we go to church?” He said, “We go to church for other people. Because someone may need you there.”

Now by no means is that the only reason we go to church, but his response does resonate with the heartbeat of the writer to the Hebrews. He urged the believers to persevere in the faith, and to achieve that goal he stressed “not giving up meeting together” Why? Because something vital would be missed in our absence: “encouraging one another” We need that mutual encouragement to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

Brothers and sisters, keep meeting together because someone may need you there. And the corresponding truth is that you may need them as well. – John Blasé