

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – March 21, 2021 @ 10am
Fifth Sunday in LENT

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Karl Schmuch

Leader: God's mercy floods over us.

All: Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.

Leader: God's love pours into us.

All: Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.

leader: Let the love and mercy of God reign in your heart today.

Leader and People: Be with me, Lord, and guide my life.

AMEN.

Opening Song "For the Fruits of All Creation"

(see lyrics below) <https://youtu.be/IBXHDbesb7k>

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:27-34 The Message Karl Schmuch

"Be ready. The time's coming"— God's Decree — "when I will plant people and animals in Israel and Judah, just as a farmer plants seed. And in the same way that earlier I relentlessly pulled up and tore down, took apart and demolished, so now I am sticking with them as they start over, building and planting.

"When that time comes you won't hear the old proverb anymore, Parents ate the green apples, their children got the stomachache.

"No, each person will pay for his own sin. You eat green apples, you're the one who gets sick.

"That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master." God's Decree.

"This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them— write it on their hearts! — and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!" God's Decree.



Moment of Music “Create in Me a Clean Heart Oh God” by Maranatha Singers

<https://youtu.be/2fVliokregE>

Joys and Concerns (*prayer requests can be texted to 978-973-2362*)

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Time of Silence

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 John 12:20-26 *The Message*

Karl Schmuck

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: “Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?” Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, “Time’s up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

“Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you’ll have it forever, real and eternal.

“If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you’ll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment’s notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.

Message: “The New Life in the Life-Force Through God”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Music “In the Bulb There is a Flower” (*see lyrics below*)

<https://youtu.be/XtDntrsKbZw>

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Lyrics

“For the Fruits of All Creation” <https://youtu.be/IBXHDbesb7k>

For the fruits of all creation,
Thanks be to God.
For to the gifts to ev'ry nation,
Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
Thanks be to God.
In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

In the bulb there is a flower;
In the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
Seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
What it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
In our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing;
In our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
At the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.

“Create in Me a Clean Heart Oh God” by Maranatha Singers

Create in me a clean heart oh God and renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart oh God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence oh Lord and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation. And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart oh God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart oh God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence oh Lord and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and renew a right spirit within me
and renew a right spirit within me.

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Rowley, Massachusetts

March 15, 2021

To: The Members and Friends, First Congregational Church, U.C.C., Rowley
Rowley, Massachusetts

The 381st Annual Meeting of the church will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2021 beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. immediately after the 10:00 a.m. drive-in worship service.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting are:

1. To hear and act on annual reports of the various officers, boards, and committees from the previous year.
2. To hear and act upon the report of the Nominating Committee (elections).
3. To hear and act upon any other business which may properly come before the church membership.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Irving

David E. Irving, Clerk

PARTICIPANTS

Minister: Rev Tom Bentley
Lay Reader: Karl Schmuch
Deacon: Les Warren

Music Director: Karl Schmuch
Deaconess: Nicola Pyburn

Prayer List

Whenever there is a need for spiritual support, you are encouraged to call anyone on the Prayer Chain with your concerns and they will inform the others so that our prayers of love and support can be with you immediately.

The Prayer Chain members are as follows: Patti Cummings (978)948-8176, Patti.Cummings@livanova.com; Kay Dalzell (978)948-2674, kdalzell@comcast.net; David & Donna Irving (978) 948-7020, dvirving@aol.com; Nicola Pyburn (978)948-2598, nicola.pyburn@gmail.com; Ken Sanford (978)948-2847, kcsanford1@gmail.com; Dennis Ward (978)432-1021, rward3024@comcast.net; Jerry & Nancy Schmidt (978)388-1417, schmidtnancy36@gmail.com, jschmidt22@comcast.net; or Les Warren (978) 352-7551; leswarren3@gmail.com.

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)	Al Locke
Doris Bradstreet (Residence at Riverbend)	Helen Downing
Nancy Cook and her daughter	Duval Family
Gretchen Lee (friends of Bev and Doug Phillips)	Millie and Nat Dummer
Ken Flewelling (Amy Rotberg's father)	Ginny Merry
Al Fowler (Friend of Sally McRae's)	Sally McRae
Kurt Reese	Family of Mame Delaney
Jean (Sally McRae's cousin)	Linda Lemay (Rhonda Ward's friend)
Beverley Phillips	Pat and Steve True
Elaine Pyburn (resident at Sunrise in Lynnfield)	Dede Todd
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)	Audrey Corby
Helen Dobbins	Gerry Ernstrom
Billy Prime	Robbie Marshall
Bill Glynn and Family	Lisa Levandowski and family
Colin Wilson (Rhonda Ward's father)	Lilian Trecartin
Sarah and her husband Joe	

**Blessings of the Prayer Shawls AFTER
Joys and Concerns**

THANK YOU CCN!

**We thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry volunteers and members of the
Compassionate Care Network for your prayers, companionship and the
wonderful prayer shawls. Your compassion and care reminds us of God's
presence and care.**



**The First Congregational Church of Rowley
The Compassionate Care Network**

May God's Grace be upon this shawl
Warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing.
May this mantle be a safe haven,
A sacred place of security and well-being
Sustaining and embracing,
In good times as well as difficult ones
May you be cradled in HOPE
Kept in JOY
Graced with PEACE
And wrapped in LOVE

This shawl was knitted with love by
