



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, March 6, 2022 – Communion Sunday

Reverend Thomas Bentley

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Jen Loring

(Based on Psalm 91 verses 1, 2, 10-13; Romans 10:13)

Leader: We gather here, trusting in God.

People: God is our refuge and strength.

Leader: God is our ever-present hope in times of trial.

People: God's care is everlasting and God's Love endures forever.

Leader: As we begin our Lenten journey. Let us gather in confidence knowing God is with us.

Leader and People: Everyone who calls on God for help is saved through the sacrificial love of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior.

OPENING PRAYER

Jen Loring

All Knowing and All Loving God; we seek salvation through our power, so we ignore your call to forgiveness and compassion. We seek salvation through our independence, but your commandments plead for accountability. We seek salvation through our intellect, yet your wisdom is written on our hearts. We seek salvation through our heritage, but instead you invite us to make a new journey of faith. May your invitation to journey overcome our comfort with the familiar. Save us from our own pride and arrogance. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

Opening Song – “Our Father We Have Wandered” <https://youtu.be/xFAE0RXzACQ>

Old Testament Reading
Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *The Message*

Jen Loring

Once you enter the land that GOD, your God, is giving you as an inheritance and take it over and settle down, you are to take some of all the first fruits of what you grow in the land that GOD, your God, is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place GOD, your God, sets apart for you to worship him. At that time, go to the priest who is there and say, "I announce to GOD, your God, today that I have entered the land that GOD promised our ancestors that he'd give to us." The priest will take the basket from you and place it on the Altar of GOD, your God. And there in the Presence of GOD, your God, you will recite:

A wandering Aramean was my father,
he went down to Egypt and sojourned there,
he and just a handful of his brothers at first, but soon
they became a great nation, mighty and many.
The Egyptians abused and battered us,
in a cruel and savage slavery.
We cried out to GOD, the God-of-Our-Fathers:
He listened to our voice, he saw
our destitution, our trouble, our cruel plight.
And GOD took us out of Egypt
with his strong hand and long arm, terrible and great,
with signs and miracle-wonders.
And he brought us to this place,
gave us this land flowing with milk and honey.
So here I am. I've brought the first fruits
of what I've grown on this ground you gave me, O GOD.

Then place it in the Presence of GOD, your God. Prostrate yourselves in the Presence of GOD, your God. And rejoice! Celebrate all the good things that GOD, your God, has given you and your family; you and the Levite and the foreigner who lives with you.

Moment of Music "Desert Voice" <https://youtu.be/phiVW2ycgWU>

Offering

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye 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.

Gospel Reading

Jen Loring

Luke 4:1-13 *The Message*

Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry.

The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: "Since you're God's Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread."

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to really live."

For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, "They're yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I'm in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they're yours, the whole works."

Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone?’”

“Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’”

That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

Message: Wilderness Companion

Rev. Tom Bentley

Sacrament of Holy Communion (See Insert)

Closing Song: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us <https://youtu.be/4aa-S-rAT10>

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Flowers on the Altar: *Given by Joyce Ernstrom in memory of her husband Gerry and son Neal.*

Deacons: Jerry and Nancy Schmidt

Audio Visual: Eric Fila

Like and engage with us online

<http://www.firstchurchrowley.org>

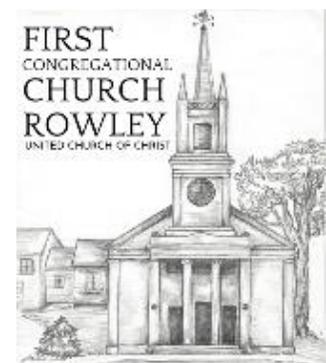
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Our Father We Have Wandered

<https://youtu.be/xFAE0RXzACQ>

Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But now in exile dwelling,
we rise in fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.
And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust, to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us,
with calf and robe and ring.
O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving,
and ever-caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease,
Stretch out your hand of blessing,
in pardon and in peace.

– Kevin Nichols

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English in the Liturgy, Inc.

Tune: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN
(PASSION CHORALE), Hans L. Hassler;
J. S. Bach

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

<https://youtu.be/4aa-S-rATlO>

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
We are Thine, thou dost befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
We will early turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
We will early turn to Thee.



Lenten Series

with Rev. Tom
Beyond Resistance

Monday Nights
Starting **Monday, March 7**
7pm-8:15pm
In Person at Church
or on Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

Meeting ID: 825 5168 7559
Passcode: q5Kar3

Mark your calendars

All Church Meeting

Assets Mapping

Sunday
March 27, 2022

We will be looking at the special
resources we have as a faith
community.

This can help us focus how
to approach the future.



**Pancake Breakfast
Is Back!**
Saturday, March 12
8am-9:30am

Pancakes, Bacon, Turkey-Sausage,
Toppings, Juice, Coffee
\$8 (under 6 free)



Flowers for the Altar can be
arranged by contacting
Debbie Confalone
dconfalone@comcast.net