



# First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service  
Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022  
Reverend Thomas Bentley  
Marge Thurston, Organist



HAPPY  
*easter*

May you have  
a meaningful Easter  
from your friends at First Church Rowley



## ***Easter Flowers***

*Pink Tulip given by David and Donna Irving in memory of loved ones*

*Pink and Lavender Tulips given by Penny Hurley, in memory of my beloved husband, Michael Glynn*

*Pink and Lavender Tulips given by Patti and Dick Cummings in honor of our family*

*Pink Tulips given by Gary and Debbie Confalone in honor of our family and friends*

*Yellow, Pink and Lavender Tulips given by Glen and Nicola Pyburn in celebration of our beautiful grandchildren*

*Easter Lily and Lavender Tulip given by Ellie and Billy Manning in memory of loved ones.*

## **VIDEO: “Rising Up in the Light of God”**

### ***Inspirational Singers sing from “Christ Arose”***

*Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Savior  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!  
Vainly they watched His bed, Jesus my Savior  
Vainly they sealed the dead, Jesus my Lord*

### **Reading of Mark 16:1-6 *New Revised Standard Version* Nancy Schmidt**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

### ***Inspirational Singers continue to sing from “Christ Arose”***

*Death could not keep his prey, Jesus my Savior  
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord*

#### ***Refrain:***

*Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o’er His foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with his saints to reign;  
He arose,  
He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

## **The Opening of the Sanctuary Shutters to Let in The Light of Life**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Opening Song: "The Day of Resurrection"**

**NCH #245**

*(while the congregation sings, the candles on the altar and the candelabras are lit by the Deacons)*

**Call to Worship**

**Nancy Schmidt**

Leader: Welcome today! Look where our Lenten journey has brought us!

**People: We walked the seashore and the hills with Jesus; we went to the upper room and to the Garden of Sorrows, we stood at the cross and hid in a room out of our fear.**

Leader: Now we are here, in the splendor and beauty of this place!

**People: Everything is bursting with life. Jesus is alive! He is risen!**

Leader: Hallelujah!

**Leader & People: Hallelujah! AMEN**

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Nancy Schmidt**

**Christ the Lord is Risen today! Alleluia! Our hopes and dreams have come true. We do not have to fear death, for Christ goes before us. Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead and given to us new life. Open our hearts to receive your wondrous words of love, O God. Help prepare us for the opportunities to serve you by serving others. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

**Nancy Schmidt**

**We have to admit it, Lord, that we had our doubts. We have heard the Resurrection story and for so many years it has remained just a nice story. But this time it is different. This time we have walked the path with Christ. We have journeyed through the wilderness and valleys, to the mountaintops to the courtyard, the garden and the cross. Now you bring us to the empty tomb and to the joyous news of the truth of Christ. Forgive us when we so easily doubt the truth of his resurrection. Forgive us when we feel we have to have absolute proof of everything. Your love in Jesus Christ is all the proof we need. You conquered death and sin, you brought us to new life. We praise your holy name**

**and sing our unending song of hope and thanksgiving. Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia. AMEN.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

Come into the light of God's love! Christ is risen! Death has been swallowed up in victory! Know beyond all doubt that God's love is always with you, surrounding you, leading you, comforting you. Be at peace. AMEN.

**Song: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"**

**NCH # 240**

**New Testament Reading**

**Nancy Schmidt**

**Acts 10:34-43 The Message**

Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.

"You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

"And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn't put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we're not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets."

## Call to Offering

### Moment of Music: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

[Christ the Lord is Risen Today - YouTube](#)

### Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

### Joys and Concerns and 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

##### Mark 16:1-8 *The Message*

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?"

Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said."

They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

**Message: “The Long and the Short of It”**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Closing Song: “Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain ”**

**NCH #230**

**Benediction**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

***Every Morning is Easter Morning***

Refrain:

Every morning is Easter morning from now on!  
Every day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

Verse 1

Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance! Hello, Lord, hello sun!  
I am one of the Easter people! My new life has begun

Refrain

Verse 2

Daily news is so bad it seems the good news never gets heard.  
Get it straight from the Easter people! God's in charge spread the word!

Refrain

Verse 3

Yesterday I was bored and lonely; but today look and see  
I belong to the Easter people! Life's exciting to me!

Refrain

Ending

Every morning is Easter morning, Every morning is Easter morning,  
Every morning is Easter morning, FROM NOW ON!

*Thankful for all our Deacons and Eric Fila for their service and talents today.*

**Coming up at First Church...**

**No COA Exercise and Office closed on Monday, April 18 for Patriots Day**

**Wednesday mornings at 10am - Getting to Know Us, study group**

**Sunday, April 24 – Annual Meeting, 8:30am**

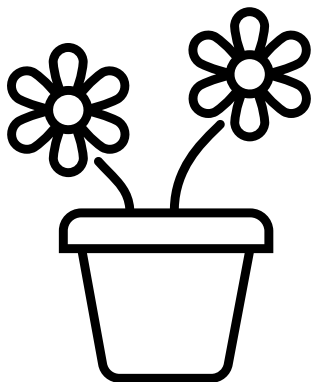
**Wednesday, April 27 - Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)  
Diaconate Meeting, 7pm**

**Saturday, April 30 – Pets Unleashed Bible Story and Fun 10am-12pm (church)  
Blessing of the Pets on the Town Common at Noon**

**Tuesday, May 10 – Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm**

**Saturday, May 14 – Pancake Breakfast 8-9:30am (\$8)  
Annual Plant Sale, 9am-1pm (rain date 5/21)**

**Save the date: Ezekiel Rogers Golf Tournament, September 17, 2022**



**Annual Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 14  
9am-1pm  
(rain date 5/21)**

**Flowers donated by Country Gardens**



**BIBLE ADVENTURE FUN!!!**

**Free** Community Program

**First Church of Rowley**

175 Main Street, Rowley, MA

Bible Story, Crafts, Games and Snacks

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00-12:00

Pre-K through 3rd grade

Blessing of the Pets to follow

on the Town Common

All welcome!!

Email [FirstChurchRowley@gmail.com](mailto:FirstChurchRowley@gmail.com) to  
enroll



