



First Congregational Church of Rowley

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

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, May 22, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Flowers on Communion Table, Sunday, May 22

Given by Nicola and Glenn Pyburn in memory of Jean Taylor and Mary Campbell

Deacons – Nancy and Jerry Schmidt

Lay Readers – Patti Cummings

A/V – Eric Fila

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Patti Cummings

Leader: We come together this day, drawn by the light of God's love!

People: In God's eternal kingdom, darkness and despair are vanquished.

Leader: In God's eternal realm, peace and hope reign!

People: Let all the people praise God with their music and their voices!

Leader: Let all the people praise God with their deeds of loving-kindness!

Leader & People: Praise be to God. AMEN!

Opening Prayer (*In unison*)

Patti Cummings

Loving One, you nurture us with many blessings. Help us to believe in your words and trust that we are loved no matter what. We come to you today to be together, and despite our flaws we proclaim our faith. Encourage our hearts with your teachings and heal our souls with your grace. Amen.

Opening Song: "Near the Cross" <https://youtu.be/OZvYWpVGtFQ>

Jesus keep me near the cross
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calvary's mountain

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me

Chorus:

In the cross
In the cross, be my glory ever
'til my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river

Chorus

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand
Just beyond the river

New Testament Reading

Patti Cummings

Acts 16:9-15 *The Message*

That night Paul had a dream: A Macedonian stood on the far shore and called across the sea, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" The dream gave Paul his map. We went to work at once getting things ready to cross over to Macedonia. All the pieces had come together. We knew now for sure that God had called us to preach the good news to the Europeans.

Putting out from the harbor at Troas, we made a straight run for Samothrace. The next day we tied up at New City and walked from there to Philippi, the main city in that part of Macedonia and, even more importantly, a Roman colony. We lingered there several days.

On the Sabbath, we left the city and went down along the river where we had heard there was to be a prayer meeting. We took our place with the women who

had gathered there and talked with them. One woman, Lydia, was from Thyatira and a dealer in expensive textiles, known to be a God-fearing woman. As she listened with intensity to what was being said, the Master gave her a trusting heart—and she believed!

After she was baptized, along with everyone in her household, she said in a surge of hospitality, “If you’re confident that I’m in this with you and believe in the Master truly, come home with me and be my guests.” We hesitated, but she wouldn’t take no for an answer.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

<https://youtu.be/GVOG15Zj5KM>

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine’s blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust life’s glory dead,
And from the ground their blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

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.

Gospel Reading

Patti Cummings

John 5:1-10 *The Message*

Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called *Bethesda*, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, “Do you want to get well?”

The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.”

Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off.

That day happened to be the Sabbath. The Jews stopped the healed man and said, “It’s the Sabbath. You can’t carry your bedroll around. It’s against the rules.”

Message: “Healing Begins With Trust”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: Abide with Me <https://youtu.be/S5KsKsEu0v0>

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse
meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's
power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their
bitterness

Where is thy sting death?
Where grave thy victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross,
before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom
and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks,
and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Wednesday	10am	Getting to Know Us, study group
Thursday	3-6pm	Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open
	7pm	Al Anon
Saturday	9am-1pm	Fellowship Thrift Shoppe Open
	7pm	AA
Sunday	10am	Worship
Monday & Thursday	9:30- 10:30am	COA Fitness Group
Wednesday, and Friday	1pm-2pm	YMCA Fitness Groups
Sunday, May 22	11am	Missions Meeting – after church
Tuesday, May 24	6:30pm	Compassionate Care Network
Wednesday, May 25	7pm	Trustee Meeting
Sunday, May 29	10am	Guest Pastor, Ian Holland from Swampscott After Church conversation with Pastor Holland
Monday, May 30		Memorial Day

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