



First Congregational Church of Rowley

United Church of Christ

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

Order of Worship Service

Communion Sunday

Sunday, November 6, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley



Deacons – Jen Loring and Les Warren

Lay Reader – Dave Irving

Organist – Marge Thurston

Today's AV Tech – Eric Fila



Flowers on the altar given by

**Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Streiff in memory of his parents Elizabeth and Eric Streiff
and his aunts Helen and Nancy Somborger**

We are a church that lives by faith, is known by love...A voice of hope serving the community

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Dave Irving

Leader: There are times when our lives feel empty.

People: We pose questions to the Lord, questions of frustration and hopelessness.

Leader: Yet, God is patient and listens to our cries.

People: God is faithful to us and will help us to overcome our fears.

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on each one of us.

People: Heal our spirits. Change our lives into joyful service to you.

Leader & People: Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.

Opening Prayer: *(in unison)*

Dave Irving

Redeeming God, come and heal our lives this day. Open our hearts to receive your words of hope and joy that we may become faithful servants of yours in this world which you have loaned to us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Opening Song: "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me" #283 NCH

Old Testament Reading

Dave Irving

Job 19:23-27 *The Message*

"If only my words were written in a book—

better yet, chiseled in stone!

Still, I know that God lives—the One who gives me back my life—

and eventually he'll take his stand on earth.

And I'll see him—even though I get skinned alive! —

see God myself, with my very own eyes.

Oh, how I long for that day!

Call to Offering

Moment of Music: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" # 286 NCH

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

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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

Luke 29: 27- 38 *The Message*

Dave Irving

Some Sadducees came up. This is the Jewish party that denies any possibility of resurrection. They asked, "Teacher, Moses wrote us that if a man dies and leaves a wife but no child, his brother is obligated to marry her and give her children. Well, there once were seven brothers. The first took a wife. He died childless. The second married her and died, then the third, and eventually all seven had their turn, but no child. After all that, the wife died. That wife, now—in the resurrection whose wife is she? All seven married her."

Jesus said, "Marriage is a major preoccupation here, but not there. Those who are included in the resurrection of the dead will no longer be concerned with marriage nor, of course, with death. They will have better things to think about, if you can believe it. All ecstasies and intimacies then will be with God. Even Moses exclaimed about resurrection at the burning bush, saying, 'God: God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob!' God isn't the God of dead men, but of the living. To him all are alive."

Message: "Asking God the Big Questions"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see back page)

Closing Song "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" #331 NCH

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

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ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION - Rev. Tom Bentley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Most loving and gracious God. Forgive our sins; those we commit knowingly and those we do without perception of how they hurt others. Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit to hear your truth, to understand our failure and to reach a new level of understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: *Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.*

All: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven

COMMUNION PRAYER - Rev. Tom Bentley

The pastor says *"...and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and
Might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes
In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest**

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

The pastor says: *Let us unite in the words of remembrance...*

All: We remember and give thanks for such love and goodness, and mercy.

WORDS OF BLESSING - Rev. Tom Bentley

HOLY COMMUNION

The pastor will offer instructions as how to receive the elements, and when to eat the bread and drink the unfermented wine. Grape Juice is on the outer circle, Wine is in the inner circle.

During the distribution of the bread and unfermented wine we are invited to sing

"Let Us Break Bread Together" #330 NCH

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)

Almighty God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

BENEDICTION

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