



# First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service October 31, 2021

Flowers on the Altar given by the Diaconate in loving remembrance of all our saints.  
Flowers on the wall given in loving memory of Kathryn and Joseph Crateau by the Robillard Family.  
Deacons Jerry and Nancy Schmidt

## Welcome and Announcements

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

## Call to Worship

**Nicola Pyburn**

Leader: Bless the Sovereign at all times.

**People: Salvation belongs to our God.**

Leader: The Sovereign heard our cry and delivered us from our fear.

**People: Salvation belongs to our God.**

Leader: All who take refuge in the Sovereign will be comforted.

**Leader & People: Salvation belongs to our God.**

Opening Song - For All the Saints (*words on the screen*)

## New Testament Reading

**Nicola Pyburn**

**Revelation 7:9-17    *The Message***

I looked again. I saw a huge crowd, too huge to count. Everyone was there—all nations and tribes, all races and languages. And they were *standing*, dressed in white robes, and waving palm branches, standing before the Throne and the Lamb and heartily singing:

Salvation to our God on his Throne!

Salvation to the Lamb!

All who were standing around the Throne—Angels, Elders, Animals—fell on their faces before the Throne and worshiped God, singing:

Oh, Yes!

The blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving,

The honor and power and strength,

To our God forever and ever and ever!

Oh, Yes!

Just then one of the Elders addressed me: “Who are these dressed in white robes, and where did they come from?” Taken aback, I said, “O Sir, I have no idea—but you must know.”

Then he told me, “These are those who come from the great tribulation, and they’ve washed their robes, scrubbed them clean in the blood of the Lamb. That’s why they’re standing before

God's Throne. They serve him day and night in his Temple. The One on the Throne will pitch his tent there for them: no more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat. The Lamb on the Throne will shepherd them, will lead them to spring waters of Life. And God will wipe every last tear from their eyes."

### **Call to Offering**

**Moment of Music: Saints of God by David Haas**

### **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**

#### **Celebration of the Saints**

*A reading of the names of those who have passed on to God in the past year*

**Doris Bradstreet**

**Ralph Cutsinger**

**Mame Delaney**

**Jo Divelbess**

**Susan Dumbsday**

**Betty Duval**

**Dick Emery**

**Gerry Ernstrom**

**Edward Hale**

**Michael Glynn**

**Stephen Levesque**

**Carol Locke**

**Joan Lyons**

**Richard McKay**

**Elaine J. Pyburn**

**Dorothy Spurling**

**Raymond Spurling**

**John Sturdivant**

**June St. Jacques**

**Vern Thomas**

## 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

**Matthew 5: 1-12    The Message**

***Nicola Pyburn***

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

### **Message “The Bumps and the Blessings”**

**Closing Song: Forward Through the Ages** *(words on the screen)*

## **Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley**

For All the Saints, NCH#299

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
who to the world their steadfast faith confessed,  
your name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might;  
you, Christ, the hope that put their fears to flight;  
'mid gloom and doubt, you were their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold,  
live as the saints who nobly fought of old.  
and share with them a glorious crown of gold.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Ringed by this cloud of witnesses divine,  
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet in your love our faithful lives entwine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
then hearts are brave again, and faith grows strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Forward Through the Ages NCH #377**

1 Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
move the faithful spirits at the call divine;  
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
manifold the service, one the sure reward.

Refrain:

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

2 Wide grows God's dominion,  
reign of love and peace;  
for it we must labor, till all strivings cease.  
Prophets have proclaimed it, teachers testified,  
poets sung its glory, martyrs for it died. [Refrain]

3 Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;  
in each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.  
Bound by God's far purpose in one living whole,  
move we on together to the shining goal. [Refrain]

