



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Reverend Tom Bentley

Tune in to FM 90.3

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Jen Loring

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Leader: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

Leader & People: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

Opening Prayer of Invocation

Rev. Tom Bentley

Opening Song: "Bring a Torch Jeannette, Isabella"

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!

Bring a torch, to the cradle run!

It is Jesus, good folk of the village;

Christ is born and Mary's calling.

Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother!

Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!

It is wrong when the child is sleeping,

It is wrong to talk so loud;

Silence, all, as you gather around,

Lest your noise should waken Jesus.

Hush! hush! see how fast He slumbers;

Hush! hush! see how fast He sleeps!

Softly to the little stable.

Softly for a moment come;

Look and see how charming is Jesus,

How He is warm, His cheeks are rosy.

Hush! hush! see how the child is sleeping;

Hush! hush! see how He smiles in dreams.

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free--signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

Moment of Music: "Arise Your Light Has Come"

Joys and Concerns | Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-13 *The Message*

Jen Loring

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.
Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light.

Message: "The Light of Life in the Darkness of Depravity"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Closing Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley