



First Congregational Church of Rowley

Order of Worship Service

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Reverend Thomas Bentley

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship (*Philippians 3*)

Leader: The race is set before us.

People: We journey with Jesus to places unknown

Leader: Soon we will arrive in Jerusalem

People: But Jerusalem is noted for killing the prophets and those whom God sends.

Leader: Fear not! God is with us and will guide us on this journey of faith.

Leader & People: We place ourselves completely in God's care.

Opening Prayer:

Marge Thurston

Lord, we come to you this morning with so many concerns and issues that demand our attention. Our lives are burdened; our spirits are tired. Guide our lives and our steps as we walk this Lenten journey, inward and outward. Help us to discern what you would have us do, that others may be healed. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

Opening Song: Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling <https://youtu.be/q5tNBqzRCao>

New Testament Reading

Marge Thurston

Philippians 3:14-4:1 *The Message*

I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites.

But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him.

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

Moment of Music "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" https://youtu.be/L_3yc0wWe7Y

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 13:31-35 *New International Version*

Marge Thurston

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate.

I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’

Message: “If You Have No Goal, You’ll Probably Get There” Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song: Unto Thee O Lord <https://youtu.be/tjqlkWhz-aA>

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Flowers on the Altar: Given by Jerry and Nancy Schmidt in gratitude for all of God’s gifts, including our loved ones now in heaven.

Deacons: Nicola Pyburn and Jen Loring

Audio Visual: Eric Fila

Like and engage with us online

<http://www.firstchurchrowley.org>

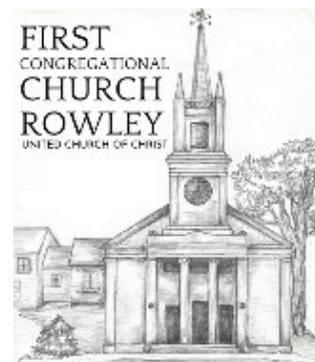
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Holy Spirit Ever Dwelling

<https://youtu.be/q5tNBqzRCao>

Holy Spirit, ever dwelling
in the holiest realms of light,
Holy Spirit, ever brooding
o'er a world of gloom and night,
Holy Spirit, ever raising
those of earth to thrones on high,
living, life-imparting Spirit,
you we praise and magnify.

Holy Spirit, ever living
as the Church's very life,
Holy Spirit, ever striving
through us in a ceaseless strife,
Holy Spirit, ever forming
in the Church the mind of Christ,
you we praise with endless worship
for your gracious gifts unpriced.
Holy Spirit, ever working
through the Church's ministry,
teaching, strength'ning, and absolving,
setting captive sinners free,
Holy Spirit, ever binding
age to age and soul to soul
in communion never ending,
you we worship and extol.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

https://youtu.be/L_3yc0wWe7Y

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess;
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow
For my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
Than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain or loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all the cross.



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine
today.

We pray for peace and the laying
down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for
tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would
draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over
war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and
compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your
precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect
them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the
Prince of Peace.

Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Lenten Series

with Rev. Tom
Beyond Resistance

Monday Nights
2nd week **Monday, March 14**

7pm-8:15pm

In Person at Church
or on Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://bit.ly/Rowley-Lent>

Meeting ID: 829 0300 1188
Passcode: cPm63a

Good Options for donations for Ukraine:

World Central Kitchen wck.org

Razon for Ukraine

World Health Organization

USA for UNHCR

IRC

Save the Children

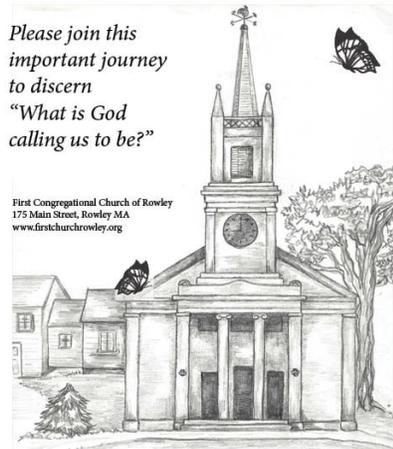
Global Empowerment

Missions Fellowship Walk

for March will be held on
March 20th at 1pm at the
Cox Reservation in Essex.

All Church Meeting

Sunday, March 27
following worship service



Mark your calendars All Church Meeting

Assets Mapping

Sunday
March 27, 2022
after coffee hour

We will be looking at the special resources we have as a faith community. This can help us focus how to approach the future.

Easter Lily and Tulip Orders

Easter Lily single stem \$12



Tulip multi-stem in 6.5" pot
\$11
pink, lavender, white, yellow, red



Please Order by April 10th

Contact Debbie Confalone dconfalone@comcast.net

781-290-6502

Please Order _____ Easter Lilies and/or _____ Tulips (Colors _____)

Given by _____

In honor / memory of _____

Total: _____ (self addressed envelopes are located at the entrances)

