First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Worship - February21, 2021
Remote Service Via Zoom
First Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Tom Bentley**

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 25*) **Penny Hurley**
Leader: We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.

All: We come, to be guided in the ways of God's truth - to experience the joy of God's salvation.

Leader: We come, at the beginning of our Lenten journey, aware of God's unending love that can help us to overcome the trials and temptations, which can descend on us at any time.

All: Lead us, O God, to do what is right in your eyes and teach us to follow the humble way of Jesus, your beloved Son.

Opening Song – "All Creatures of Our God and King" *(please see the lyrics in the video)*
https://youtu.be/0d3gO6qDLNA

Old Testament Reading **Genesis 9: 8-16** ***The Message*** **Penny Hurley**
Then God spoke to Noah and his sons: "I'm setting up my covenant with you including your children who will come after you, along with everything alive around you—birds, farm animals, wild animals—that came out of the ship with you. I'm setting up my covenant with you that never again will everything living be destroyed by floodwaters; no, never again will a flood destroy the Earth."
God continued, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and everything living around you and everyone living after you. I'm putting my rainbow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between me and the Earth. From now on, when I form a cloud over the Earth and the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll remember my covenant between me and you and everything living, that never again will floodwaters destroy all life. When the rainbow appears in the cloud, I'll see it and remember the eternal covenant between God and everything living, every last living creature on Earth."

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I've set up between me and everything living on the Earth.

Moment of Music "Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi " https://youtu.be/VO1FJoi5W5E

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 **Mark 1:9-15** ***The Message*** **Penny Hurley**
At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God's Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: "You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life."

God's Kingdom Is Here

At once, this same Spirit pushed Jesus out into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by Satan. Wild animals were his companions, and angels took care of him.
[1]After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: "Time's up! God's kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message."

Message: "The Vision in Unity" **Rev. Tom Bentley**

Benediction: **Rev. Tom Bentley**

Postlude: "Going Home" ***Dvorak (theme from the Largo movement of the New World Symphony played on the cello)*** https://youtu.be/vYqTx0xH_-I

Prayer List

Whenever there is a need for spiritual support, you are encouraged to call anyone on the Prayer Chain with your concerns and they will inform the others so that our prayers of love and support can be with you immediately. The Prayer Chain members are as follows: Patti Cummings (978)948-8176, Patti.Cummings@livanova.com; Kay Dalzell (978)948-2674, kdalzell@comcast.net; David & Donna Irving (978) 948-7020, dvdirving@aol.com; Nicola Pyburn (978)948-2598, nicola.pyburn@gmail.com; Ken Sanford (978)948-2847, kcsanford1@gmail.com; Dennis Ward (978)432-1021, rward3024@comcast.net; Jerry & Nancy Schmidt (978)388-1417, schmidtnancy36@gmail.com, jschmidt22@comcast.net; or Les Warren (978) 352-7551; leswarren3@gmail.com.

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)
Doris Bradstreet (Residence at Riverbend)
Nancy Cook and her daughter
Gretchen Lee (friends of Bev and Doug Phillips)
Ken Flewelling (Amy Rotberg's father)
Al Fowler (Friend of Sally McRae's)
Kurt Reese
Jean (Sally McRae's cousin)
Beverley Phillips
Elaine Pyburn (resident at Sunrise in Lynnfield)
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)
Helen Dobbins
Billy Prime
Audrey Corby
Lisa Levandowski and family
Al Locke
Helen Downing
Duval Family
Millie and Nat Dummer
Ginny Merry
Sally McRae
Family of Mame Delaney
Linda Lemay (Rhonda Ward's friend)
Pat and Steve True
Dede Todd
Eric Walczewski
Gerry Ernstrom
Robbie Marshall
Bill Glynn and Family

Announcements

Interested in Church Membership?: "Rev. Tom would like to speak with anyone who is interested in looking into membership in the church. All those interested are requested to check in with Rev. Tom via his email (bentleyconsulting123@gmail.com) and/or a telephone call to his cell (978-973-2362). When everyone interested is signed on, an orientation group time will be scheduled at a time convenient to all. This group will then meet for two to three times to share and learn about what membership means in our congregation. Tentatively, new members would then be received on Easter Sunday April 4th.

Invitation to a *Journey:* The Season of Lent will be a challenge this year with the increased isolation due to the pandemic. In this time is also an opportunity to reflect on where you are in your journey of faith and life. To help with this, everyone is invited to register for a special program. Entitled ***"The Journey in the Spirit"*** on the day after our Ash Wednesday Service on Zoom on February 17th at 7 PM, interested folks will meet on Zoom at 7 PM on the Thursdays of Lent concluding with a Zoom Maundy Thursday Service for the whole congregation on April 1st at 7 PM. This seven-week program will help all of us explore our own personal spirituality - What's your "Spiritual Type"? What values form the foundation of your life and your faith expressions? What spiritual prayers and practices (ancient and modern) might interest you and help you in your "Journey"? How does your spiritual focus relate to Christian traditions and scripture? You are invited to come and see and experience the love of Jesus in special and new ways. The structure of the program will allow for sharing in small groups as well as a larger number of all participants together.

If you have no internet and computer access, all you need is a land-line telephone. Please call the office to register, or you can do so online at our website firstchurchrowley.org.