

**First Congregational Church of Rowley
United Church of Christ
Reverend Tom Bentley, Pastor
The Order of Morning Worship
April 19, 2020**

Log on to <https://www.firstchurchrowley.org/weekly-messages/>

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, all that
is good and beautiful are
the generous gifts
from your heart of love.

**People: All the grace
we will ever need
is held out to us
in your hands of hope.**



**Leader and People:
We have nothing apart
from you, God of Easter.**

HYMN “The Day of Resurrection “

OPENING PRAYER

By your living example,
we can set aside our fears
to live as God's faithful children.
By your compassion,
we can stand in the midst of the broken,
and share healing with them.

We can do nothing apart
from you, Brother of our souls.

You are the Breath which
gives
us the gifts and lives
to pour out for others.
You are the composer
of songs of joy which echo
throughout the universe.
We are nothing apart
from you, Spirit of
wonder.



God in Community, Holy in One,
may we never be apart from you,
AMEN

**LEARNING TIME (for the young and not so
young)**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 have
sinned 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

SCRIPTURE READING:  **1 PETER 1:3-9** *The
Message*

CALL TO OFFERING

VIDEO (TBD)

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, you have blessed us. We find it hard to name and explain your blessings so that they will make sense to others. Yet they are real. We are grateful . . . for friends, for faith, for freedom. Now, we offer these gifts in thankfulness and in joy. We are giving money and rejoicing about it. We can't explain it, even to ourselves, as we offer these gifts. We rejoice because this money is the Love of your Son resurrected in this world. In His name, we pray. Amen.



GOSPEL: John 20: 19-31

The Message

MESSAGE: “We Are All In This Together”

BENEDICTION

CLOSING MUSIC

1 Peter 1:3-9 The Message

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.

I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it *proved* pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out *proved* genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.

You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation.

John 20:19-31 The Message

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.



The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his

greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?”

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”

But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.” Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

amen