

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ**  
**The Order of Morning Worship | Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**Holy Communion**  
**Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – December 20, 2020 @ 10am**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

Leader: Host of Hosts, from sunrise to sunrise, and generation to generation, we are your people.

**All: You have been with us wherever we have gone. You will be with us wherever we may go.**

Leader: You planted us in a land flowing with milk and honey, then you planted our salvation in Mary's womb.

**All: Jesus, who is the Christ, is planted firmly in each one of us.**

Leader: Our souls magnify the Holy One.

**All: Our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.**



**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**Call to Worship**

**Abby Hanson**

Leader: Beloved, Holy Lover, we welcome you to this sacred space.

*(the first purple candle- the candle of Hope is lit.)*

**All: Here we can gather together as your people.**

*(The second purple candle, the candle of Peace is lit.)*

Leader: Here we come to offer you our thanksgiving and praise in response to the abundance of your creation.

*(The third candle [the pink candle of Joy] is lit.)*

**All: Here we come to share with you our prayers of confession.**

*(the fourth candle – the purple candle of Love is lit.)*

Leader: Even knowing that you are here and everywhere, we come longing to hear you say, "I am with you always."

**All: Amen.**

**Opening Song "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" *(see lyrics from the Pilgrim Hymnal attached)***

**New Testament Reading**

**Abby Hanson**

**Romans 16:25-27 *The Message***

All of our praise rises to the One who is strong enough to make *you* strong, exactly as preached in Jesus Christ, precisely as revealed in the mystery kept secret for so long but now an open book through the prophetic Scriptures. All the nations of the world can now know the truth and be brought into obedient belief, carrying out the orders of God, who got all this started, down to the very last letter. All our praise is focused through Jesus on this incomparably wise God! Yes

**Moment of Music "Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming". <https://youtu.be/kU-E46o0sp0>**

**Joys and Concerns *(prayer requests can be texted to 978-973-2362)***

**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**

**Abby Hanson**

**Luke 1: 26-38** *The Message*

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her,

"Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever— no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God. And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say."

Then the angel left her.

**Message: "Obedient Belief"**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Postlude "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's Messiah** <https://youtu.be/Vl6dsMeABpU>



**We are having a socially distanced Christmas Eve service on the Common. Details will be announced via email, Facebook and posted on the website.**

## Lyrics

Hark the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With the angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heaven adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth

Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hallelujah Chorus  
(Handel's Messiah)

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah

For the lord God omnipotent reigneth  
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth  
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
hallelujah)  
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
hallelujah)  
Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
hallelujah)  
For the lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
hallelujah)  
Hallelujah

The kingdom of this world  
Is become  
The kingdom of our Lord,  
And of His Christ  
And of His Christ

And He shall reign forever and ever  
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever)  
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever)  
And he shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign forever and ever)

King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)  
And lord of lords (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)  
King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)  
And lord of lords (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)  
King of kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)  
And lord of lords  
King of kings and lord of lords

And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)  
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)

King of kings forever and ever  
And lord of lords hallelujah hallelujah  
And he shall reign forever, forever and ever

King of kings and lord of lords  
King of kings and lord of lords  
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign forever and ever)

Forever and ever, forever and ever (King of kings and lord of lords)

Hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah hallelujah  
Hallelujah

