

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – November 8, 2020 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Penelope Hurley

Leader: Get ready! The time is coming when the Lord will be brought near to us

All: Lord, set us on the pathway that leads to you.

Leader: Lord, reach out to us and take our hands.

All: Help us, Lord! Guide us.

Leader: Gracious God, be with us throughout this day and all our days.

All: Heal our lives and open our hearts to you always. AMEN.

Opening Song “Just As I Am ” *(see lyrics attached)*

New Testament Reading

Penelope Hurley

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *The Message*

And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus.

And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence—we have the Master's word on it—that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they'll go first. Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

Moment of Music “We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder”

Sung by Paul Robeson 1958 Carnegie Hall

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

Penelope Hurley

Matthew 25:1-13 *The Message*

“God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep. “In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bride-groom’s here! Go out and greet him!’

“The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’

“They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’

“They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

“Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’

“He answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’

“So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

Message: “Expectation”

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude: “Pressing on the Upward Way” (Higher Ground) sung by Lor *(please remain with us as we take in the blessed message of this dear artist)*

Lyrics for "Just as I Am"

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Pressing on the Upward Way

I'm pressing on the upward way,
New heights I'm gaining every day;
Still praying as I onward bound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

CHORUS:

So, Lord, lift me up, and let me stand
By faith on Heaven's tableland;
A higher plane than I abound,
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

My heart has no desire to stay
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;
Though some may dwell where those abound,
My prayer, my aim, it's higher ground.

CHORUS:

I want to live above the world,
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;
For faith has caught a joyful sound,
The song of saints on higher ground.

CHORUS: (2)

Closing Prayer... I want my tomorrow to
Be better than today...



**Olde Tyme Country Fair
First Congregational Church, Rowley
Virtual 2020 Style
November 21-22, 2020**

Due to the COVID-19 virus we are unable to have our traditional fall fair. In the spirit of the fair, you can order some of your favorite items and purchase raffle tickets for those lovely gift baskets.

Some of those favorite items will include: Cabot Private Stock Cheese, Penny's Homemade Bread, Short Bread, Mrs. Sharon's Baked Beans, Roger's Honey Stewed Apples, along with Country Gardens Kissing Balls and Winter Log Baskets. Luncheon items will be available such as Turkey Gobbler Sandwiches, Chili, Corn Chowder etc..

We will also have a virtual raffle for some of those lovely gift baskets, this year's baskets include: Feed the Birds, Family Games, Stonewall Kitchen Basket, Wine and Chocolates, Health Essentials Basket, Arts and Crafts, Kitchen Items, "Afternoon at the Matinee" Basket, Music Related Items and Snacks for the Youth.

Visit www.firstchurchrowley.org or www.oldtymecountryfair.com to place your order. Payment methods include: credit card, PayPal & check.

The raffle drawing will be held via FB Live on November 18th at 12pm (<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchofRowley>).

You can pick up your purchases at the church (175 Main Street, Rowley) via curbside/touchless service on November 21st or 22nd between 11am and 2pm.

We greatly appreciate the community wide support of our church and its activities. Many volunteers have lovingly contributed their time, talents and treasure over the years to this wonderful fair.



The deadline for all orders and payment is Nov.14.

We hope to see you next year in the traditional way. May God bless you and your families and keep them safe.

