

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – October 11, 2020 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship (Psalm 106)

Leader: Praise the Lord.

Give thanks for God's goodness.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

**All: Save us, O Lord,
and gather us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name,
and glory in your praise.**

Leader: Come and worship God!

Opening Song "For the Beauty of the Earth" (*see lyrics attached*)

New Testament Reading

Marge Thurston

Exodus 32: 7-14 *The Message*

God spoke to Moses, "Go! Get down there! Your people whom you brought up from the land of Egypt have fallen to pieces. In no time at all they've turned away from the way I commanded them: They made a molten calf and worshiped it. They've sacrificed to it and said, 'These are the gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"

God said to Moses, "I look at this people—oh! what a stubborn, hard-headed people! Let me alone now, give my anger free reign to burst into flames and incinerate them. But I'll make a great nation out of you."

Moses tried to calm his God down. He said, "Why, God, would you lose your temper with your people? Why, you brought them out of Egypt in a tremendous demonstration of power and strength. Why let the Egyptians say, 'He had it in for them—he brought them out so he could kill them in the mountains, wipe them right off the face of the Earth.' Stop your anger. Think twice about bringing evil against your people! Think of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants to whom

you gave your word, telling them ‘I will give you many children, as many as the stars in the sky, and I’ll give this land to your children as their land forever.’”

And God did think twice. He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people.

Moment of Music “Come My Way, My Truth, My Life” (*see words attached*)

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

Marge Thurston

Matthew 22 :1-14 *The Message*

Jesus responded by telling still more stories. “God’s kingdom,” he said, “is like a king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out servants to call in all the invited guests. And they wouldn’t come!

“He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, ‘Look, everything is on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast!’

“They only shrugged their shoulders and went off, one to weed his garden, another to work in his shop. The rest, with nothing better to do, beat up on the messengers and then killed them. The king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy those thugs and level their city.

“Then he told his servants, ‘We have a wedding banquet all prepared but no guests. The ones I invited weren’t up to it. Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find to the banquet.’ The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on, good and bad, regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled.

“When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn’t properly dressed. He said to him, ‘Friend, how dare you come in here looking like

that!' The man was speechless. Then the king told his servants, 'Get him out of here—fast. Tie him up and ship him to hell. And make sure he doesn't get back in.'

"That's what I mean when I say, 'Many get invited; only a few make it.'"

Message: "God's Default to Grace"

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Lyrics

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, Over and around us lies,

Lord of all, to Thee we raise; This our grateful hymn of praise.

For the wonder of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light,

Lord of all, to Thee we raise; This our grateful hymn of praise..

For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise; This our grateful hymn of praise.

For Your Church that evermore, Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love,

Lord of all, to Thee we raise; This our grateful hymn of praise.

For Yourself, best Gift Divine, To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth, and joy in heaven.

Lord of all, to Thee we raise; This our grateful hymn of praise.

LYRICS

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath,
such a truth as ends all strife,
such a life as killeth death.

2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast,
such a feast as mends in length,
such a strength as makes his guest.

3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move,
such a love as none can part,
such a heart as joys in love.

***First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Rowley, Massachusetts***

October 15, 2020

To Members and Friends,
First Congregational Church, Rowley

The 2020 Semi-Annual Meeting of the church membership will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2020. The meeting will be held immediately after the Sunday worship service. The business meeting will begin no earlier than 10:30 am that same morning. CDC guidelines will be followed. Masks must be worn in church at all times.

Items on the agenda for the business meeting are:

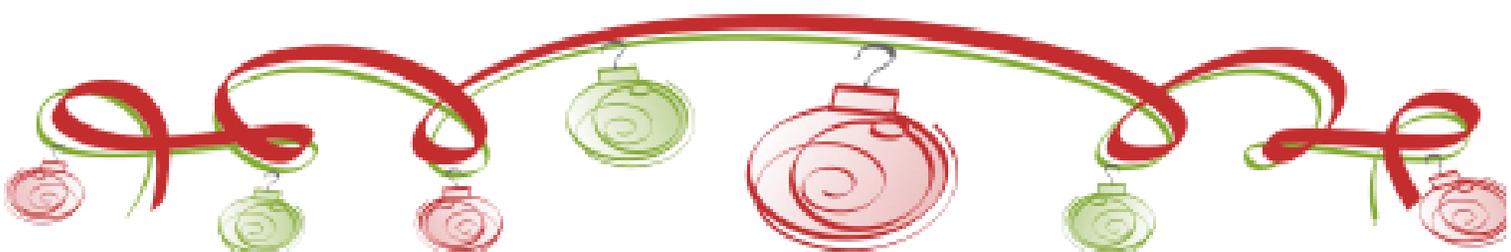
1. To receive the annual reports from the various boards and committees for the year 2019.
2. To hear and act on recommendations from the Finance Board on the church budget for 2021.
3. To hear and act on any other business which may properly come before the church membership.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Irving

David E. Irving, Clerk

To attend via Zoom, please visit our website www.firstchurchrowley.org,
for further instructions.



**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.

