

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – January 10, 2021 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Leader: From the waters of Creation, the earth sprang forth.

All: From the waters of a womb, God's blessed Son was given to us.

Leader: From the waters of a river, people were baptized and marked as God's Children

All: Praise be to God, whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.

Leader: Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love

All: AMEN.

Penny Hurley



Opening Song "O Holy Dove of God Descending" (see lyrics from *New Century Hymnal* attached). <https://youtu.be/x0nT2uqyug8>

New Testament Reading Acts 19:1-7 The Message

Penny Hurley

Now, it happened that while Apollos was away in Corinth, Paul made his way down through the mountains, came to Ephesus, and happened on some disciples there. The first thing he said was, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? Did you take God into your mind only, or did you also embrace him with your heart? Did he get inside you?"

"We've never even heard of that—a Holy Spirit? God within us?"

"How were you baptized, then?" asked Paul.

"In John's baptism."

"That explains it," said Paul. "John preached a baptism of radical life-change so that people would be ready to receive the One coming after him, who turned out to be Jesus. If you've been baptized in John's baptism, you're ready now for the real thing, for Jesus."

And they were. As soon as they heard of it, they were baptized in the name of the Master Jesus. Paul put his hands on their heads and the Holy Spirit entered them. From that moment on, they were praising God in tongues and talking about God's actions. Altogether there were about twelve people there that day.

Moment of Music: Hymn of St. Patrick <https://youtu.be/zBnCjDcDMKo>

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

Matthew 1:4-11 *The Message*

Penny Hurley

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey.

As he preached, he said, "The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I'm a mere stagehand, will change your life. I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out."

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."

Message: "Discovering the God Within You"

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude: "Auld Lang Syne" -The Choral Scholars of University College Dublin

O Holy Dove of God Descending

O holy Dove of God descending,
You are the love that knows no ending.
All of our shattered dreams You're mending:
Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Wind of God now blowing,
You are the seed that God is sowing.
You are the life that starts us growing:
Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Rain of God now falling,
You make the Word of God enthralling,
You are that inner voice now calling:
Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Flame of God now burning,
You are the power of Christ returning.
You are the answer to our yearning:
Spirit, now live in me. X2

Hymn of St. Patrick

Christ be with me and within me
Christ behind me and before
Christ beside me and to win me
Christ to comfort and restore

Christ beneath me and above me
Christ in quiet and in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger

Christ be with me and within me
Christ behind me and before
Christ beside me and to win me
Christ to comfort and restore

Christ beneath me and above me
Christ in quiet and in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger

Christ in every heart that's broken
Christ in every joy and pain
Christ in every word that's spoken
Christ in sun and moon and rain

Christ in resting and in rising
Christ the Lord of all my life
Christ to guide me and to shield me
Christ protecting me in strife

Christ be with me and within me
Christ behind me and before
Christ beside me and to win me
Christ to comfort and restore

Christ beneath me and above me
Christ in quiet and in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger