

**First Congregational Church of Rowley
Drive in Service - Order of Worship
90.3FM
December 27, 2020**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Penny Hurley

Leader: The word comes forth from the mouth of God!

A new name shatters Caesar's rule!

All: Let us hear our new name.

Leader: Let us turn to the light.

All Let us build a new earth.

Let us celebrate new life!

Opening Song "The First Noel" (*see lyrics from the Pilgrim Hymnal attached*)

<https://youtu.be/1mltWsC8RtM>

New Testament Reading

Penny Hurley

Galatians 4:4-7 *New Revised Standard Version*

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Moment of Music "Simeon's Canticle" Music by Manoling Francisco, Arrangement Paulo K.

Tyrol, SJ. Soloist: Celia Uy from the album Hangad. <https://youtu.be/5cH5d9CX3x8>

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

Penny Hurley

Luke 2:22-40 *The Message*

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

God, you can now release your servant;

release me in peace as you promised.

With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;

it's now out in the open for everyone to see:

A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,

and of glory for your people Israel.

Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother,

This child marks both the failure and

the recovery of many in Israel,

A figure misunderstood and contradicted—

the pain of a sword-thrust through you—

But the rejection will force honesty,

as God reveals who they really are.

Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fasting and prayers. At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.

When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him

Message: "The Rejection that Forces Honesty"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude "In the Bleak Midwinter – Loreena McKinnit https://youtu.be/jwStDK2_qpw

The First Noel Lyrics aka The First Nowell

The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the north-west:
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Simeon's Canticle Lyrics

Lord, let your servant go in peace;
For Your Word has been fulfilled. x2

A child shall be born to the virgin,
and his name shall be called Emmanuel

Lord, let your servant go in peace;
For Your Word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen, your salvation
which you have prepared for all men.

Lord, let your servant go in peace;
For Your Word has been fulfilled.

A light shall reveal to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Lord, let your servant go in peace;
For Your Word has been fulfilled. x3