

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – October 4, 2020 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Nancy Schmidt

Leader: Welcome to this open space, a place of faith.

ALL: From our homes, we come seeking God's word.

Leader: Here you will find nourishment and hope.

All: May we learn lessons of courage and peace.

Leader: Here you will find rest from your struggles

All: Lord, prepare our hearts to receive your words that we may leave this holy place of faith and return to our homes, encouraged and challenged to be your people. AMEN.

Opening Song

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

New Testament Reading

Nancy Schmidt

Philippians 3: 8-9 *The Message*

Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—*God's* righteousness.

Moment of Music

"Jesus Lifted Me"

Joys and Concerns

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

Nancy Schmidt

Matthew 21:33-46. *The Message*

"Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

“The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son.

‘Surely,’ he thought, ‘they will respect my son.’

“But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’ They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

“Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?”

“He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.”

Jesus said, “Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out
is now the cornerstone.

This is God’s work;
we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!

“This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed.”

When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

Message: “From Trash to Treasure”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Note:

Lyrics

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory
On Thy people pour Thy power
Crown Thine ancient church's story
Bring its bud to glorious flower
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour
For the facing of this hour

Lo! The hosts of evil 'round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days
For the living of these days

Cure Thy children's warring madness
Bend our pride to Thy control
Shame our wanton selfish gladness
Rich in things and poor in soul
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal
Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal

Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore
Let the gift of Thy salvation
Be our glory evermore
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Serving Thee Whom we adore
Serving Thee Whom we adore

Jesus Lifted Me

Chorus:

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me
Singin' glory hallelujah - Jesus lifted me.

***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.