

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship, April 5, 2020
Palm Sunday**

(Sermon message through [Video](#) or [Podcast](#) which can be found on our [website](#))

Welcome! Be silent, be thoughtful, be reverent. Please take time to read this Order of Worship and envision your sisters and brothers of the faith gathered before God. Then speak to God as you can , and also let God speak to you. With this Bulletin you are also receiving a video which conforms to the printed Order of Worship. On Easter morning a Zoo- based live worship experience is planned where everyone can either dial in on a telephone or log in via computer. You will be kept informed about this new initiative as details are assembled. May the Holy Spirit be with you!



Concerns of the Church

As we move into our third Sunday with no live worship and no ability to meet face to face, many ideas are being offered via emails and phone calls as to how to engage effective communication, sharing, and decision making. Please read emails as they arrive to keep us on track with changing conditions on the ground. Phone calls will be made to folks who lack email and online access. Our ad hoc Steering Team chaired by Nancy Schmidt is monitoring day-by-day decisions. The Executive Committee of the church is responsible for any significant decisions which affect the overall functioning of the institution. Programming will be initiated by the pastor and staff. Please pray for everyone in this time of challenge. Any detailed Announcements are posted at the end of this Order of Worship.

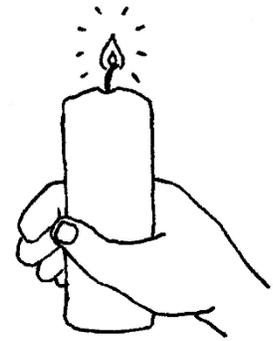
The Invitation of God's Wide Open Welcome

*Welcome to the First Church in Rowley . This is a special worship experience each of us is experiencing in our own way and at our chosen schedule. We hope everyone can be inspired and helped in this time of global challenge. Here in our congregation we have a wide open welcome. You're welcome if you've been coming here for decades, or if this is your first time worshipping with us; if you're new to this community or even this country, you are welcome here... If you are younger or older, richer or poor, married divorced or single. You are welcome if you are gay or straight or somewhere in between; black, white, Latino, Asian, something else or somewhere in between. We welcome you if you come with great faith, or just a little, or maybe a lot of questions. We welcome you to join us in celebrating God's all encompassing love this week, for that is how Jesus welcomes each one of us. **WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE** to rest here... to be connected here to the Spirit of the Love of God.*

Order of Worship – Palm Sunday April 5, 2020

Lighting of the Candles *(please light a candle in you home as you participate)*

Call to Worship Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
*(available in the downloaded video [link] is the pastor
Saying these words accompanied by music)*



Give thanks to God, for he is good.
His stead-fast love endures for aye.
Let Israel say, "God's stead-fast love
Endures forever with-out end.
O-pen the gates of righteousness,
That I may enter and thank God.
This is the gate of God the Lord;
Only the righteous can come in.

I thank you that you answered me,
That my salvation you've be-come.
The stone the builders turned a-way
Has now be-come the corner-stone.
This is the doing of the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice, let us be glad.

Save us, O Lord, we pray to you;
Give us success, we pray, O Lord.
Blest he who comes in God's own name.
From God's own Temple we bless you.
You are my God, I give you thanks;
You are my God, I will praise you.
Give thanks to God, for he is good;
His stead-fast love forever lasts.
Amen and Amen.

Opening Prayer

This week we are invited during our video worship time to participate in a 3 ½ minute guided meditation led by Dr. Mark Williams, noted researcher in the field of neuroscience and psychiatry. If you prefer to meditate in your own way, you are encouraged to do that instead.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:1-11 *(The Message Translation)*

Children's Message

God's Story- Palm Sunday

(Included in this week's worship service video is "God's Story – Palm Sunday" which speaks to all of us as well as our young folks. Families are encouraged to watch it together and talk about it at the end. To access it please go to the "Weekly Messages" section on our [website](#).

The Lord's Prayer *(in unison led by Rev. Tom Bentley)*

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.

A Time of Offering

(This is a time of great challenge for our congregation and all churches. We are all encouraged to open our hearts to God's cry for love and commitment in this moment of transition for our world. To make a gift you can log onto to <https://www.firstchurchrowley.org/online-giving/>)

Prayer of Dedication *(offered by Rev. Tom Bentley)*

Blessed Lord, we surrender our lives to your prophetic message of salvation. You have given us the gift of enduring steadfast love. Multiply these gifts so that we may share the magnitude of your joy-filled message throughout our community and world. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Amen. (Matthew 21:1-11)

Joys & Concerns of the Church in Prayer *(please see attached Prayer List and please pray for our sisters and brothers in the community)*

Pastoral Prayer *(at 11:00 AM Sunday April 5th Rev. Tom will offer up a prayer for our congregation. Please pray at this time also in your own way)*

Morning Message : " Hope Frustrated". *(Please see <https://www.firstchurchrowley.org/weekly-messages/> also all church friends with email should have received an audio Mp3 copy of this podcast by Friday April 3rd)*

Benediction. *(Offered by Rev. Tom Bentley at the closing of his message)*

In our time with you. O God, we have been called to open our hearts to you and let you in. Now as we draw back again to our busy world of tensions and challenges, we pray that you help us open our hearts to our brothers and sisters in our human community. May their sufferings become the place where we encounter your Grace. Amen

Give Time to Worship

Give Your Love and Time to Serve

Announcements

Compassionate Care Network

Some of our members have reached out to ask, "*How can I help?*" during this time of social isolation. To that end, we are creating a "Compassionate Care Network." This is a group of folks who will check in with church members to see how they are doing and what, if anything, they might need. Sometimes a simple phone call or a handwritten note is enough to stay connected and know that others care. Someone may need help with grocery shopping, or just need a listening ear. If you are interested in joining the team of those who are reaching out, please contact Angie at the church.

Building use & Services

Programming, meetings, events, services, thrift store hours and general building accessibility continue to be suspended through May 4th per Governor Charlie Baker's advisory. We will notify you if the date has to be readjusted once again.

Prayer List:

Bill Adams (Jen Loring's dad); **Alice** (Al & Carol Locke's daughter); **Doris Bradstreet** (Residence at Riverbend); **Donald Chase** (Joanne Blouin's father); **Nancy Cook and her daughter, Gretchen Lee** (friends of Bev and Doug Phillips); **Helen Downing; Millie and Nat Dummer; Betty and Paul Duval; Ken Flewelling** (Amy Rotberg's father); **Al Fowler** (Friend of Sally McRae's); **Mary Fronczek** (Pam Sanford's mother at SeaView); **Jean** (Sally McRae's cousin); **Linda Lemay** (Rhonda Ward's friend); **Al & Carol Locke; Robbie & Dale Marshall** (Kay Dalzell's Brother and Sister-in-law); **Bob and Ginny Merry; Barry and Karen Moore; Bob Mulkern and family; Virginia Olson; Beverley Phillips; Elaine Pyburn; Rowley Youth Group's Project Joy; Jean Short** (Kay Dalzell's neighbor); **Dorothy Spurling; Don Thurston and Marge Thurston; Dede Todd; Steve & Pat True; all First Responders and military – at home or away and 'all God's Children'.**

Scripture Reading during the Worship Time:

Matthew 21:1-11 *The Message*

When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

**Tell Zion's daughter,^[L]_[SEP]
"Look, your king's on his way,^[L]_[SEP]
poised and ready, mounted^[L]_[SEP]
On a donkey, on a colt,^[L]_[SEP]
foal of a pack animal."**

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

**As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"
The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."**