

**First Congregational Church of Rowley  
United Church of Christ  
Reverend Tom Bentley, Pastor  
The Order of Morning Worship  
Sunday April 26, 2020**



Log on to <https://www.firstchurchrowley.org/weekly-messages/>

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We thank you, O God, for the miracles of abundance in our moments of need.

**All: And we praise you for always being there for us.**

Leader: We thank you, O God, for the miracle of resurrection in our moments of lifelessness and despair.

**All: And we praise you for always being there for us.**

Leader: We thank you, O God, for the gift of faith when our ability to believe is strained.

**All: And we praise you for always being there for us.**

Leader: You are God, You are accessible,  
You are involved.

**All: And, we recognize our need for you.**

**All: Thank you that, as we seek to love, to serve, to follow you and to make a contribution, we can rely on your grace and your Spirit to support and guide us.**

**AMEN**

## **OPENING HYMN**

**Lord of All Hopefulness Lord of All Hopefulness**

**1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

**Traditional Irish Tune (Slane)**



## OPENING PRAYER

O God, we are in a time when death seems inevitable and the suffering around us makes us want to turn away. In secret chambers the power-brokers meet to decide our fate. Give us the courage, we pray, to make the voice of life and justice heard; In the forgotten corners where the powerless and poor daily walk in the valley of the shadow of death, we commit to compassion and giving; May we turn away from death; and may we become your living resurrection, wherever we find ourselves.

In the dying places on our planet where human carelessness and consumption threaten the survival of all, we commit to simplicity and sustainability. As you sit with us now, Jesus, and break the bread of heaven, may our own hearts be broken for the release of faith and a fire of love that cannot die.

AMEN

## LEARNING TIME

(for the young and not so young)

## PASTORAL PRAYER



## THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 have sinned 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



## SCRIPTURE READING

### **Acts 2:14a, 22-42 - *The Message Translation***

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency:

“Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God, was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him. But God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him. David said it all:

I saw God before me for all time.  
Nothing can shake me; he's right by my side.  
I'm glad from the inside out, ecstatic;  
I've pitched my tent in the land of hope.  
I know you'll never dump me in Hades;  
I'll never even smell the stench of death.  
You've got my feet on the life-path,  
with your face shining sun-joy all around.  
[from Psalm 16]

Peter then said,

“Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.”

He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, “Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!”

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

## CALL TO OFFERING

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

To give online, go to: <https://www.firstchurchrowley.org/online-giving/>

## HERE I AM TO WORSHIP



## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Truth and Light, we offer you these gifts with humble hearts. We yearn to share your unmistakable presence with all people. While we often find temporary security in our possessions, remind us that true security comes from our relationship with you through your son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen and entrust us to be your faithful disciples. In the name of the One who came to save us, we pray. AMEN. (from Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19)**

## GOSPEL

**Luke 24:13-35** *The Message Translation*

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

He said, "What has happened?"

They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."



Then he said to them, “So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can’t you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don’t you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?” Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: “Stay and have supper with us. It’s nearly evening; the day is done.” So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared. Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

They didn’t waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: “It’s really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!”

Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

## **MESSAGE**

*“Camping Out in the Land of Hope”*

## **BENEDICTION**

Go into your week  
knowing you are  
loved perfectly,  
saved eternally,  
and empowered  
as a disciple of Jesus  
to share God’s love  
with everyone you meet.

