

First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
The Order of Morning Worship
Drive in Service - 90.3 FM – September 27, 2020 @ 10am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Sharon Emery

Leader: Come, let us worship God who provides for us.

All: Even though we whine and complain, God hears our cries.

Leader: Lift your voices in praise, for God has come to comfort you.

All: Thanks be to God who forgives and heals our wounded souls.

Leader: Come, celebrate God's steadfast love.

All: Open our hearts, O Lord, and let us truly listen to your words. AMEN.

Opening Song "Nearer My God to Thee" *(see lyrics from Pilgrim Hymnal below)*

New Testament Reading

Sharon Emery

Philippians 2:1-4 *The Message*

He Took on the Status of a Slave

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Moment of Music

"I Can Only Imagine"

Sara Stafford

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
Matthew 21:23-32 *The Message*

Sharon Emery

True Authority

Then he was back in the Temple, teaching. The high priests and leaders of the people came up and demanded, "Show us your credentials. Who authorized you to teach here?"

Jesus responded, "First let me ask you a question. You answer my question and I'll answer yours. About the baptism of John—who authorized it: heaven or humans?" They were on the spot and knew it. They pulled back into a huddle and whispered, "If we say 'heaven,' he'll ask us why we didn't believe him; if we say 'humans,' we're up against it with the people because they all hold John up as a prophet." They decided to concede that round to Jesus. "We don't know," they answered.

Jesus said, "Then neither will I answer your question.

The Story of Two Sons

"Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.'

"The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went. "The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went.

"Which of the two sons did what the father asked?"

They said, "The first."

Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe him.

Message: "Time to Forget Who You Are"

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Minister:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Congratulations Pamela and Ken Sanford on the birth of their new granddaughter Alena Catherine, born September 25 at 7:10 pm weighing 8lbs 9oz and 21 inches long. Everyone is happy, healthy and having fun!

Lyrics

Nearer My God to Thee

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raise'th me,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!

Though like a wanderer, the sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone.
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!

Or, if on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE BY MercyMe

Chorus

Surrounded by your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus?
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence?
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing "Hallelujah"?
Will be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

*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.