

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ
Order of Morning Worship
Worship Service 8-8-2021**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship (*Based on Ephesians 4: 32; 5:1. NRSV*)

Don Thurston

Leader: Let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.

Leader and people: Therefore let us be imitators of God, as beloved children and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.

Opening Song. "Send Down Thy Truth, O God" <https://youtu.be/zGw2NQCfDB4>

*Send down Thy truth, O God; Too long the shadows frown;
Too long the darkened way we've trod: Thy truth, O Lord, send down.*

*Send down Thy Spirit free, Till wilderness and town
One temple for Thy worship be: Thy Spirit, O send down.*

*Send down Thy love, Thy life, Our lesser lives to crown,
And cleanse them of their hate and strife: Thy living love send down.*

*Send down Thy peace, O Lord: Earth's bitter voices drown
In one deep ocean of accord: Thy peace, O God, send down.*

New Testament Reading Ephesians 4:25-5:2 The Message

Don Thurston

What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life. Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work.

Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

Wake Up from Your Sleep

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Call to Offering

Moment of Music. "Creator God, Creating Still" (see lyrics attached) <https://youtu.be/Tm8h2lPc4g0>

Creator God, Creating Still

Jane Parker Huber, 1977; rev. 1993

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Rom. 5:1-5

1 Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and deed,
2 Re - deem-er God, re - deem-ing still, with o - ver-flow-ing grace,
3 Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery day,
4 Great Tri - une God, for this new day we need your pres-ence still.

Cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres-ent need.
Pour out your love on us, through us, make this a ho - ly place.
Em - power us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.
Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

Huber's second hymn was written during a time of

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above the Heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost...*

Prayer of Dedication

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

John 6:35, 43-45

The Message

Don Thurston

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever... "Don't bicker among yourselves over me. You're not in charge here. The Father who sent me is in charge. He draws people to me—that's the only way you'll ever come. Only then do I do my work, putting people together, setting them on their feet, ready for the End. This is what the prophets meant when they wrote, 'And then they will all be personally taught by God.' Anyone who has spent any time at all listening to the Father, really listening and therefore learning, comes to me to be taught personally—to see it with his own eyes, hear it with his own ears, from me, since I have it firsthand from the Father.

Message "Listening to the Divine"

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Song "Let There Be Peace on Earth" <https://youtu.be/SX2QfzOcQQc>

***Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator
Family all are we
Let me walk with each other
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me***

Benediction

Events/Calendars

There are openings for the communion table on:

- 8/29

If you're interested in donating flowers for any of those weeks, please contact Debbie Confalone at: dconfalone@comcast.net.



Pancake Breakfasts will resume on the second Saturday of every month, starting in October. Details to follow. Check your bulletins and Steeple Notes.



Participants
Minister: Rev Tom Bentley
Lay Reader: Don Thurston

Choir Director: Karl Schmuck
Deacons: Nicola Pyburn
Deacons: Nancy Schmidt

Prayer List

Whenever there is a need for spiritual support, you are encouraged to call anyone on the Prayer Chain with your concerns and they will inform the others so that our prayers of love and support can be with you immediately.

The Prayer Chain members are as follows: Patti Cummings (978)948-8176, Patti.Cummings@livanova.com; Kay Dalzell (978)948-2674, kdalzell@comcast.net; David & Donna Irving (978) 948-7020, dvdirving@aol.com; Nicola Pyburn (978)948-2598, nicola.pyburn@gmail.com; Ken Sanford (978)948-2847, kcsanford1@gmail.com; Dennis Ward (978)432-1021, rward3024@comcast.net; Jerry & Nancy Schmidt (978)388-1417, schmidtnancy36@gmail.com, jschmidt22@comcast.net; or Les Warren (978) 352-7551; leswarren3@gmail.com.

Alice (Al & Carol Locke's daughter)	Al Locke
Family of Doris Bradstreet	Helen Downing
Nancy Cook and her daughter	Duval Family
Gretchen Lee (friends of Bev and Doug Phillips)	Millie and Nat Dummer
Ken Flewelling (Amy Rotberg's father)	Ginny Merry
Al Fowler (Friend of Sally McRae's)	Sally McRae
Kurt Reese	Family of Mame Delaney
Jean (Sally McRae's cousin)	Linda Lemay (Rhonda Ward's friend)
Beverley Phillips	Pat and Steve True
Family of Elaine Pyburn	Dede Todd
Jean Short (Kay Dalzell's neighbor)	Helen Dobbins
Family of Gerry Ernstrom	Billy Prime
Robbie Marshall	Bill Glynn and Family
Lisa Levandowski and family	Colin Wilson (Rhonda Ward's father)
Arnold and Patti Cisco	Douglas Stoddard (Judy Robillard's son)

Flowers on the Communion Table today are given by Bill and Shirley Todd and Dede Todd in memory of loved ones.



ANNUAL EZEKIEL ROGERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY
THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF ROWLEY
SEPTEMBER 18TH

FAR CORNER GOLF COURSE, BOXFORD, MA

8:15AM - REGISTRATION, 9AM SHOTGUN START
AFTER TOURNAMENT EVENT W LUNCH BEGINS AT 2PM.

- \$150 PER PERSON INCLUDES GOLF AND LUNCHEON
- \$35 LUNCHEON
- \$150 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
- \$75 FAMILY SPONSORSHIP
- \$500 LUNCH SPONSORSHIP

SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES A TEE SIGN AND RECOGNITION
AT THE "AFTER THE TOURNAMENT" EVENT.

For more info:

www.firstchurchrowley.org/golf

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Lisa Nestor: Lisa.Nestor@verizon.net, 508-397-4798

Sara Stafford: StaffordSara7@gmail.com, 617-212-9296