

**First Congregational Church of Rowley, United Church of Christ**  
**The Order of Morning Worship**  
**Drive in Service - 90.3 FM - July 26, 2020 @ 10am**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Call to Worship**

**Nancy Schmidt**

Leader: Waiting is never easy for us.

**All: We are a culture of “instant” response.**

Leader: Today, God is asking us to wait; to be patient.

**All: It is not going to be easy for us to do that.**

Leader: Quiet your spirits and open your hearts to God’s word for you today.

**All: Lord, be with us. Help us to be ready to hear and respond to your word. AMEN.**



**Opening Song “Seeds of Peace”** (*see lyrics below*)

**New Testament Reading**

**Nancy Schmidt**

**Romans 8:26-28, 31-39** *The Message*

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God’s Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That’s why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn’t hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn’t gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God’s chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.  
We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

### **Moment of Music. TBD**

### **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 13:31-33, 44-52. *The Message***

Another story. "God's kingdom is like a pine nut that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge pine tree, and eagles build nests in it."

Another story. "God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises."

"God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

"Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for excellent pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

"Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes

down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good."

Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?"

They answered, "Yes."<sup>2</sup> He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

**Message: "The Domain of Enlightenment"**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

**Benediction:**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

## **Seeds of Peace**

Seeds of peace. Seeds of peace.  
When everybody has a home.  
And everybody has enough to eat.  
And everybody knows the Lord of Lords.  
We'll all be seeds of peace.

Seeds of peace. Seeds of peace.  
Where Christ can dwell and we come to know  
The Prince of Peace.

And we'll be seeds of his peace.  
Let's go out into the world and plant ourselves  
And be seeds of peace.  
Seeds of peace. Seeds of peace

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