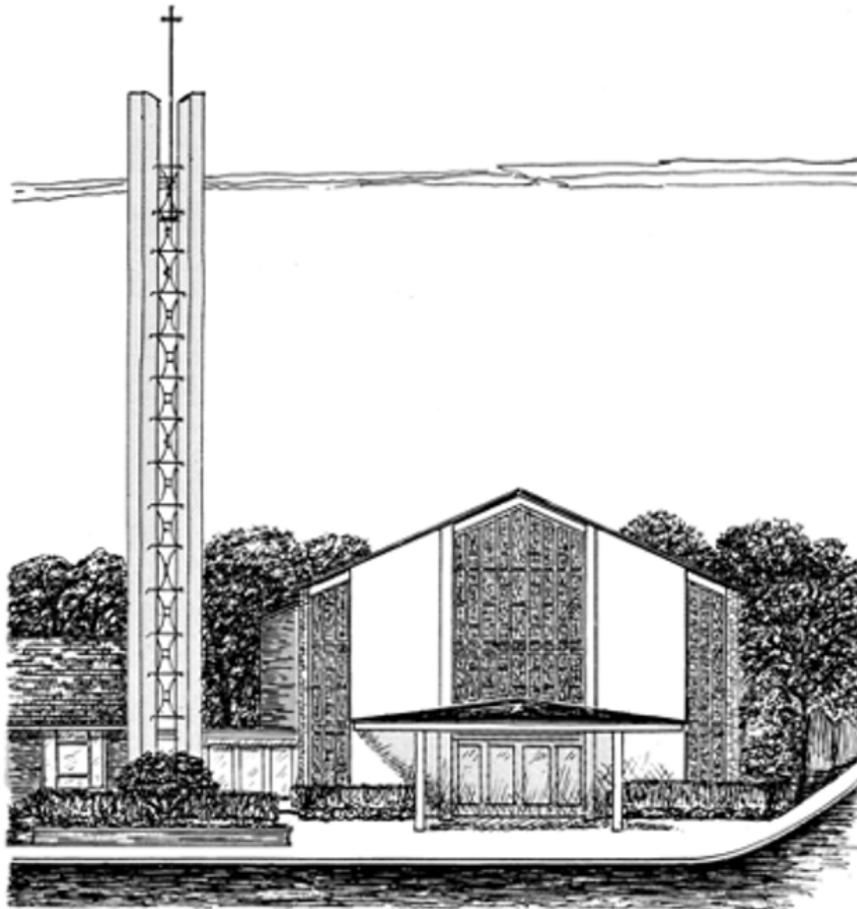


Rockport United Methodist Church

October 18, 2020



R. Jerome Crowley

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Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Opening Ourselves to Worship

Prelude & Welcome

Call to Worship (People's response in bold.)

Leader: Jesus Christ summons us to answer God's call of mercy.

People: Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal, to be forgiven and to forgive.

Leader: Christ gives us power to be freed from sin and to set others free, to tell one another and the world:

People: God's presence is at hand. Let us worship the Lord, our God.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will. We have broken your law. We have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. You lead us from the past and into the future. Teach us to hear your word and follow your call. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. We pray this, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 27:4-5

Music for Reflection

The Children's Time to Lead Us

New Testament Lesson

Romans 5:2-5

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Music for Reflection

Sermon

Dan Newman

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed Page 881

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Transforming Our Lives & the World

Prayers of the People

We thank you, O God, that you have given us an enduring hope—one which cannot disappoint us or mislead us. We thank you, that through our faith in you and in your Son Jesus Christ, you enter into every believing heart and make new lives that have been torn asunder by the darkness of this world. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray today O God that those believers who are asleep may awake and know that salvation is nearer now than when they first believed. Help them, and us, to lay aside the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light that you bestow upon those who actively seek you day by day. Grant that their faith and ours may be fully alive. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We ask today, O God, for those who have lost hope and for those who have never had it. Grant to us and to those we lift before you in our hearts a new and abiding vision of what you have done, and what you are doing, and what you will do, to save and redeem your people and indeed the creation itself. Grant, O God, that all might see and believe and discover their purpose and the purpose of all that is and all that is yet to be. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We lift before you, O God, those persons and those places named now before you in the silence of our hearts. [silence] **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We ask all this of you, O God, knowing that you are our hope and our salvation, a very present help in times of trouble, and the One whose purpose is to grant and new and abundant life to us and our world. Praise be to your name. **Amen.**

Time of Silent Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Good and holy God, for your steadfast love and faithfulness we give you thanks and bless your name. Let our whole lives become songs of gratitude, joy, and praise so that all the earth may know that we are your people and you are our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving – Psalm 150 – Book of Common Prayer

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy temple; praise him in the firmament of his power.

People: Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him for his excellent greatness.

Leader: Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; praise him with lyre and harp.

People: Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe.

Leader: Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

People: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Benediction

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Today's liturgy was adapted from: The United Methodist Hymnal, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/10/prayers-of-people-enduring-hope.html> & "Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Volume 2, Proper 6