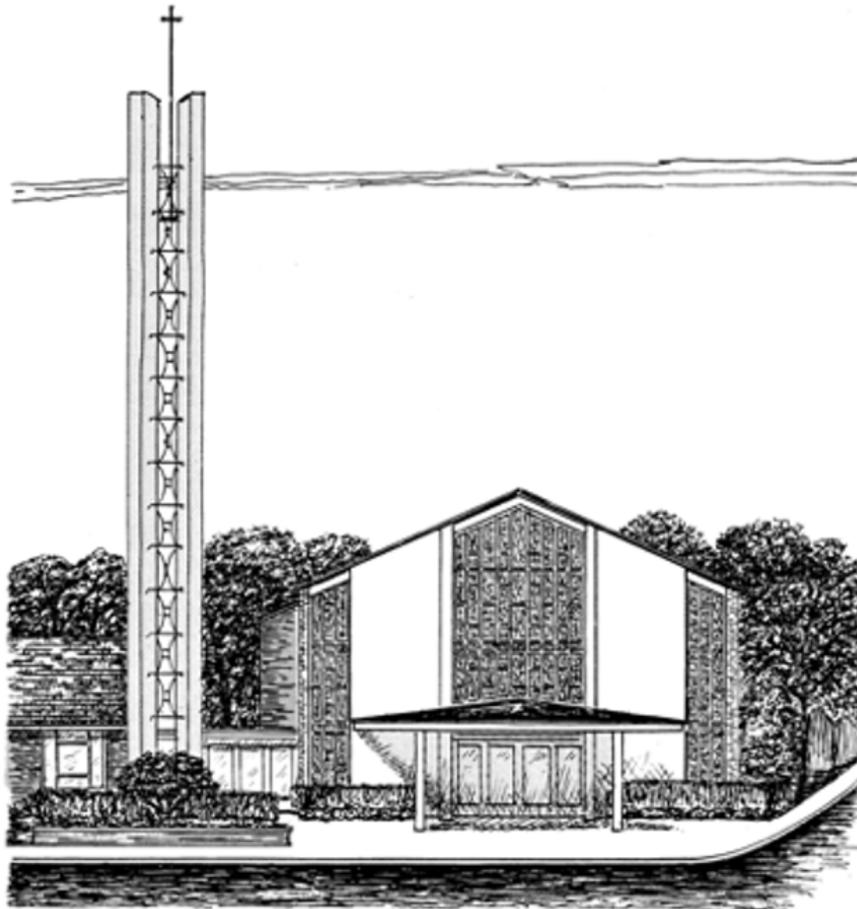


Rockport United Methodist Church

October 25, 2020



R. Jerome Crowley

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Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Opening Ourselves to Worship

Prelude & Welcome

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

Leader: O Lord our God, we praise you.

People: We cried to you for help and you answered us.

Leader: You have restored our lives;

People: You have rescued us from the grave and restored us to new life!

Invitation to Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused, and the truth we have denied. Heal us of our sin, wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace, so that we may follow your way and tell the good news of the gospel. 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

Living Lord, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love. You invite us to share all of ourselves with you and with each other, demasking what we try to hide. Uncover us. Reveal our gifts. Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may follow you this day, and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 34:1-10

Music for Reflection

The Children's Time to Lead Us

New Testament Lesson

Acts 9:1-31

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

Music for Reflection

Sermon

“The Road to De-Mask Us”

Scott Welsh

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

Let us pray to the Lord saying, O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; give them freedom, peace, and safety. O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We pray for those who breathe curses and threats; give them new hearts and new lives to glorify you. O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We pray for those who work by day and night; give them satisfaction and rest from their labors. O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We pray for those who fear their efforts are in vain; fill their lives with your providence and grace. O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We pray for all who suffer in sickness and grief; give them healing, hope, and joy. O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We pray for the faithful in every nation of the earth; give them voices to praise your name forever. O Lord our God, **we cry to you for help.**

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus, who loves us, who feeds us, who saves us.
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

Worthy are you, O God, to receive power and wealth, wisdom and might, honor and glory and blessing. You de-mask us, and invite us into an honest, transparent relationship with you and with each other. You invite us to share of our true selves, revealing the brokenness inside and uncovering the gifts you have given us. We offer these gifts back to you. Receive these gifts of thanksgiving and praise and use them for your glory and for the good of your people; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lamb. 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: "Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year C, Volume 1, Third Sunday after Easter