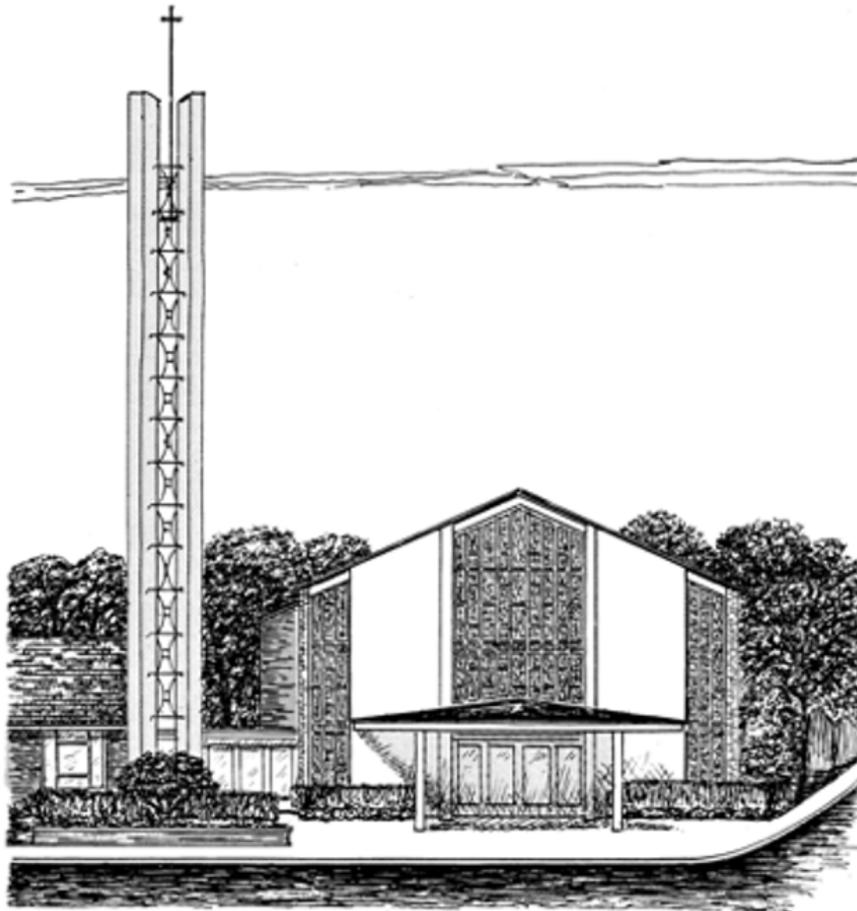


Rockport United Methodist Church

January 31, 2021



R. Jerome Crowley

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Opening Ourselves to Worship

Prelude & Welcome

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

Leader: Come! Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

People: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Leader: Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

People: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Leader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

People: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Leader: The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

People: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Come! Let us give thanks to God.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and all-powerful God, who commands all spirits, comforts those in distress, and casts out destructive forces, we confess that we are unable to do your will. We protect what is familiar and reject what is unknown. We admire those with courage but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth. We forget that you are always with us, and that with you all things are possible. Forgive us, lead us, make us new. Remove our desire to heed false prophets, and show us your way; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. 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

Almighty God, Light from Light, who commands the universe and all that is made, your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken, the force of good, and the food of peace. Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue. Heal us now so that in all that we say and do, the freedom we have in you may be for others, too; in Jesus'

name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Hymn

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

The Children's Time to Lead Us

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:21-28

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

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Sermon

Rev. Lorrin Radzik

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 for the needs of the world, saying, Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.
For the healing of Earth and all its creatures; hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**
For the church's willingness to cast out demons in its midst, for congregations that are in
turmoil, for the healing of divisions between the followers of Christ Jesus; hear us, O
God, **your mercy is great.**
For leaders of nations, for those who have great wealth, for those who have too much
power, for those who have destructive weapons, and for those who have none; hear us, O
God, **your mercy is great.**
For those who are victims of others' idolatry, for children who have no one to listen to
their cries for food and shelter, for parents who cannot answer the needs of their children,
for peacemakers and diplomats, for those who give through charities, and for those who
use the law to make policies for the greater good; hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**
For all who are in pain and in need of care, especially those we name now... [*A time of
silence is kept.*] hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For the wisdom to fear you rightly, the power to withstand changes in our own lives that bring us closer to you, for the ability to give thanks for the people who have brought us to this time - our ancestors, teachers, pastors, and the martyrs of every age; hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all those for whom we pray and those it would be easy to forget. We ask your blessing on all your people, that we may come at last to the truth around your banquet table that has no end; through Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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

For Earth, which you have molded, for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire, for Jesus who died and rose again, for the breath of life, we give you thanks, O God. Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need, in the name of all that you have first given us, especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving – Psalm 100

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God.

People: It is God that made us, and we belong to God; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Leader: Enter the gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless God's holy name.

People: For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Benediction

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Today's liturgy was adapted from: "Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Volume 1, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany