



The greatest risk is really to take no risk at all.

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand  
Please silence your cell phones*

**February 2, 2025**

**Epiphany Season**

**9:30 a.m.**

PRELUDE

Keith Ciccone, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen E. Gale

PASSING THE PEACE

Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Sanctuary*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

We praise You, Lord God, that Your Way is found not by travelling an exclusive highway, or in secrets preserved only for some,

**but in the open field of love and grace, where all who choose may come and play.**

We praise You, Lord God, that Your Truth is heard not only in the words of scholars, or in brittle, inflexible ideas,

**but in honest questions and difficult conversations, in the courageous attempts of people to live lives of integrity.**

We praise You, Lord God, that Your Life is discovered not just in the predictable places of beauty and wealth

**but in the creativity and risk of trying new things, and defending the vulnerable.**

We open ourselves again to Your call, determined to do what we promise,

**to follow Your Way,  
to embody Your Truth  
to share Your Life.**

**All with thanksgiving and praise. Amen.**

\*HYMN 47

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Luke 4:21-30

\*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.*

*World without end. Amen. Amen.*

SERMON

“On the Cliff Edge”

Rev. Karen E. Gale

MUSIC RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father (Creator), 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY DEDICATION

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures, here, below.*

*Praise God, above, ye heav'nly hosts.*

*Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Compassionate God, who sees beyond our boundaries and loves without limit, we bring these offerings with grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim your good news, heal the broken, and extend your love to all, especially those we struggle to accept. Transform our gifts into a beacon of hope and inclusion that reflects the boundless love of Christ in every corner of our community. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

# THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Sometimes it feels like it doesn't really matter, God,  
if we ignore the needs of our neighbor, or shout at the kids  
unnecessarily, or elaborate on the truth just a little, so we look  
better, or waste the resources our world so generously gives;  
Sometimes we give up reaching for the good instead of the easy,  
What difference does it really make, in the big scheme of things, if  
we just take the easy way, the not-bad-but-could-be-better way?  
And then we come here, and we remember:  
You do not ask us for our good-enoughness, our that'll-do-ness;  
Instead you call us forth into the Light, to be light, to spread light.  
To try again, to do better, to follow Jesus into the world.  
Hear us in the time of silent confession....(silence)**

Assurance of Grace

Consecration/Words of Institution

Communion Hymn 525 *One Bread, One Body*

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**O God of all the prophets,  
you knew us and chose us before you formed us in the womb.  
Fill us with faith that speaks your word,  
hope that does not disappoint,  
and love that bears all things for your sake,  
until that day when we shall know you fully,  
even as we are known by you. Amen.**

\*HYMN 443

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE





**WELCOME** to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Whether you are attending in-person or viewing the live-stream of this morning's service, we're glad you chose to be with us.



**Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTaGrBGnYzfM66pS7Bd4PvA>

**First Church Office Hours** are Monday - Friday, 9:00 - 1:00

**Televised Worship Services** are broadcast on BCAM: Verizon Channel 28, Comcast Channel 9, on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.

**The Drive & Drop Food Collection is on hold for the winter.**

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#### FIRST CHURCH BRAINTREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TODAY AFTER WORSHIP Sunday, February 2 - Annual Financial Meeting**

Please pick up your **2024 Giving Statement** today. All those not picked up in person will be mailed on Monday.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Thursday, February 6 @ 10am - Prudential Team with Sam Sinclair

Sunday, February 9 at 9:30am - Scout Sunday

Thursday, February 13 @ 7:30 Book Discussion - on zoom

Sunday, February 23 @ coffee hour - continued discussion re: Refugee Sponsor Prog.

**White Chapel Hand Bell Choir**

Rehearsal will restart on Monday night February 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome and you do not need to read music, you just need to be able to laugh a lot! Contact Valerie Johnson if you want to join. (Deb can give you her contact info)

**Coffee Hour Help is needed!** thank you to the Holtons for hosting today's Coffee Hour. Please sign up in the LPH if you can help for a future Coffee Hour.



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