



Boastful am I, and hard of heart, all in vain and for nothing. Condemn me not with the Pharisee, but rather grant unto me the humility of the Publican, O only merciful and just Judge, and number me with him.

~ St. Andrew of Crete, 8th century

October 26, 2025

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray

Yes every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray

Soloist sings verse....

Every time I feel the Spirit, moving in my heart, I will pray

Yes every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray

*Call to Worship c. Thom Shuman, adapt.

Pour out your Spirit upon us as we gather, God of our salvation:

So your grace might strengthen us for service;

So your peace might calm our troubled souls;

So your hope might mend our broken hearts.

So your words of prophecy and promise, vision and dreams, might arise here,

That we may humbly receive them, believe them, and follow them. Amen,

*Hymn 382

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cellphones.

Unison Prayer c.Kate Hawker, adapt.

Young people offer prophesy, our community beckons us with the challenge of ministering in this moment...

We nod politely with clenched teeth and closed eyes.

Invited to dream dreams...

We prefer the familiarity of the past.

Winds of vision swirl around us...

We close the windows and bolt the doors.

Even on us, even here, the Spirit will pour forth. May we receive it, believe it, be willing to be changed by it. Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

Joel 2:28-32

[God said to the prophet Joel] "I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters.

Your old men and women will dream, your young women and men will see visions.

I'll even pour out my Spirit on the servants, men and women both.

I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below:

Blood and fire and billowing smoke,

the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,

Before the Judgment Day of God,

the Day tremendous and awesome.

Whoever calls, 'Help, God!' gets help.

On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be a great rescue—just as God said.

Included in the survivors are those that God calls."

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

*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

"Goodness Over Godliness"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

*Hymn 227

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Musical Reflection

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Keith Ciccone, baritone

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 for ever. Amen.

Dedication of the Offering

*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 c.worshipways, ucc.org

**God of today and all our tomorrows,
We give you thanks for all the ways that you bless us:
the beauty and abundance of nature,
the love of family and friends,
the joy of knowing you and hearing your word.
Send Your Spirit upon us so that we might dream your dreams and see visions
of the world as you created it to be.
Guide our thoughts and actions. Bring us closer to you so that we might do
your will, with these gifts and with our whole lives. Amen.**

*Hymn 323

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

*Benediction

Postlude





The First Congregational Church of Braintree is an Open & Affirming Congregation working in partnership with all churches of the United

EVERYONE WELCOME
WE SUPPORT THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Church of Christ. We welcome all God's children into Christian faith regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, political stance or theological perspective, national origin, mental health status, physical and cognitive abilities, and the many diverse forms of family configurations. We proclaim and affirm that full and equal participation in the life and leadership of our church is open to all. We seek to continue learning and growing together as the inclusive Body of Christ. We are committed to spreading the light and love of Christ into the world through worship and service.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Church Braintree Announcements

Bible Study on Revelation

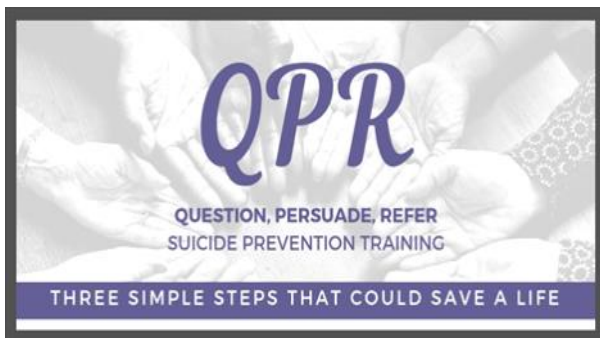


Pastor Karen is leading a class on Revelation, the most confusing and misunderstood book in our Bible, on Thursday

mornings from 10-11:30am in the Chapel. The next class is on October 30...it's not too late to join us. Come with your questions and your thoughts.



**Don't forget to "Fall Back"
NEXT Saturday night/
Sunday morning.**



QPR (Question Persuade Refer) TRAINING **Sunday, November 16 @ 11:00 AM**

Question Persuade Refer (QPR) is a 90-minute session where participants will learn three simple steps to help prevent suicide, and how to provide resources for someone who might be struggling. Course participants learn how to recognize suicide risk factors, how to ask important questions, and how to connect someone to area resources.



Rev. Karen E. Gale, Interim Pastor ❖ revkarengale@gmail.com

Keith Ciccone, Director of Music ❖ keciccon@aol.com

Mattie Gietman, Dir. Children's Ministry ❖ mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com

Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖ office@firstchurchbraintree.com

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖ finance@firstchurchbraintree.com

