



What lies behind us and what lies ahead  
of us are tiny matters compared to what  
lives within us.

~ Henry David Thoreau

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

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May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Hymn Sing

9:30 a.m.

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Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ  
Justin Ouellette, violin

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...

#### HYMN 1 DEDICATIONS

- ◇ Given by Craig & Marcia Barnes In honor of our past & present military.
- ◇ In honor of Rick Mirkin, given by Keith Ciccone
- ◇ Given by Martha and Brad Hobbs, in loving memory of Ruth & William Hobbs, our parents
- ◇ Given by Barbara Larsen in honor of all members of First Cong. Church Braintree

\*HYMN #1

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the  
glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling  
down before thee, who wert and art and ever-  
more shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not  
see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky  
and sea; holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

\*Call to Worship (Responsive)

We come to remember that past

**Where You, O God, have been faithful.**

We come to celebrate the present

**Where You, O Christ, are risen in our midst**

We come to step out into the future

**Where You, O Spirit, shine like a lighthouse guiding our way**

We come to worship in memory and in anticipation

**Meet us here O Lord. Meet us here.**



## Hymn 2 Dedications

- ♦ Given by Craig & Marcia Barnes in recognition of Nancy Mills' garden work
- ♦ In memory of Dorothy McGrory by Don Bisset
- ♦ In memory of Cheryl Mirkin Grabowski, sister, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ♦ Given by Carl & Diane Francis, in memory of Paul & Jean Francis
- ♦ In memory of Susan Leonard, given by Sally Galvin
- ♦ In memory of Ruth, Dick & Shawn Hewson, given by Thomas, Tom and Mattie
- ♦ Given by Barbara Larsen, in memory of my parents - Raymond & Clara Beard
- ♦ Given by Nancy Mills in loving memory of my mother, Natalie. We sang it as a duet.
- ♦ In memory of Mary Longhi, given by Jean & Bill Opie

## Hymn #2

### *In The Garden*

I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses

Refrain: And He walks with me,  
and He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share  
as we tarry there  
None other has ever known

He speaks and the sound of His voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing  
Refrain

I'd stay in the garden with Him  
Though the night around me be falling  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling  
Refrain

## Unison Prayer

**Time Maker, Time Giver—who fashioned the rhythm of the seasons, and gives us the gift of life—help us to trust in the goodness of the story you are writing from beginning to end. When we are worried about our needs, remind us of your faithful provision. When we are worried about tomorrow, bring us back to your presence with us today. When we can't escape the anxiousness of what could come, pour out your peace in our hearts and minds. May we embrace the story you are writing right here in our midst. Amen.**

### Hymn 3 Dedications

- ◇ Given by Craig & Marcia Barnes, in honor of past congregation members
- ◇ In memory of Jennie & John Bisset, given by Don Bisset
- ◇ Given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone, in memory of Phyllis MacFarland, friend
- ◇ Given by Nancy Mills in loving memory of my dad, it was his favorite hymn

### Hymn #3

#### *The Old Rugged Cross*

On a hill far away  
stood an old rugged Cross  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame  
And I love that old Cross  
where the dearest & best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain

Oh, that old rugged Cross  
so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me  
For the dear Lamb of God  
left his Glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary Refrain

#### Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown

3To the old rugged Cross  
I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear  
Then He'll call me some day  
to my home far away  
Where his glory forever I'll share  
Refrain

### Scripture

Acts 11:1-18



### Hymn 4 Dedications

- ◇ In honor of our remote faithful viewers, given by Craig & Marcia Barnes
- ◇ In honor of Patricia Montague, friend, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◇ In honor of A.J., Courtney, Libby & Tommy Offutt, given by Carl & Diane Francis
- ◇ Given by Pastor Karen in memory of Rev. John Wilson
- ◇ Given by Sally Galvin, in memory of loved ones

### Hymn #4

#### *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, help me stand  
I am tired, I am weak, I am  
worn

Through the storm, through  
the night lead me on to the  
light Take my hand, precious  
Lord Lead me home

When my way grows drear  
Precious Lord, linger near  
When my life is almost gone  
Hear my cry, hear my call  
Hold my hand, lest I fall  
Take my hand precious Lord  
Lead me home

When the darkness  
appears and the night  
draws near and the  
day is past and gone  
At the river, I stand

## Reading

## *Wild Geese* by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles  
through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the  
soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours,  
and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear  
pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese,  
high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are,  
no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself  
to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese,  
harsh and exciting -  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

## Hymn 5 Dedications

- ♦ In honor of friends & family, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ♦ Given by Sally Galvin, in memory of Bob Gallagher
- ♦ In memory of my husband, Jim Lynch, given by Kris Johnson
- ♦ Given by Jean and Bill Opie, in honor of Will
- ♦ Given by Grace Reinelt, in honor of friends

## Hymn #5

## *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken  
Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken  
Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
Sunlit from Heaven,  
Like the first dewfall  
On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness  
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,  
Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light  
Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation,  
Praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
Of the new day!

## Scripture

## Revelation 21:1-6



## Hymn 6 Dedications

- ◊ Given by Don Bisset in memory of Noreen Bisset
- ◊ In memory of loved ones, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◊ Given by Pastor Karen in honor of UCC missionaries serving with our global partners
- ◊ Given by Kris Johnson, in memory of my parents and brother

### \*Hymn #6

#### *Here I Am, Lord*

I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here am I, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?      Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide,  
'Til their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?      Refrain

## Meditation

### Looking Backwards and Forwards

Rev. Karen E. Gale

## Hymn 7 Dedications

- ◊ In memory of Grace & Louis Ciccone, parents, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ◊ Given by Thomas, Tom and Mattie, in memory of Bert Gietman
- ◊ Given by Barbara Larsen in honor of my son, David Larsen and daughter, Elizabeth Taylor and their families

### \*Hymn #7

#### *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come: 'tis grace has  
brought me safe thus far, and grace will  
lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his  
word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease:  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand  
years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's  
praise Than when we'd first begun.

## Reading

from *The Prophet* by Khalil Gibran

## Hymn 8 Dedications

- ◇ In memory of Frances & Arthur Mirkin, Sr., parents, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◇ Given by Carl & Diane Francis, in memory of Joseph & Helen St. Cyr
- ◇ Given by Sally Galvin, in memory of James Galvin
- ◇ In memory of Helen & Edward MacDonald, given by Thomas, Tom and Mattie

## \*Hymn #8

### *How Great Thou Art*

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed;	When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;	When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"
Refrain:	[Refrain]	[Refrain]

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!	But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]
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## 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 for ever. Amen.**

## Hymn 9 Dedications

- ◇ Given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone in honor of FCC Choir, Doug Trudeau & Valerie Johnson
- ◇ In honor of my grandchildren & great grandchildren, given by Sally Galvin
- ◇ In honor of Jack, Ben, Hayden, Addison & Brooke Hobbs and Sarah Graham, given by Martha Hobbs and Brad Hobbs
- ◇ Given by Barbara Larsen in honor of all military past, present and future
- ◇ In loving memory of my husband given by Nancy J. Mills. This was the postlude @ "renewal of our vows" on our 33rd "double trinity" anniversary
- ◇ Given by Jean & Bill Opie in honor of Elijah
- ◇ In honor of my children, given by Grace Reinelt



Hymn #9

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be  
With God our creator,  
Family all are we  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now  
With every step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment  
And live each moment  
In peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Keith Ciccone & Justin Ouellette

\*Dedication of Offering c.Christine Jerrett

**This much does not change:**

**You are our God; we are your people, bound to you by the love of Jesus Christ and by the call of your Holy Spirit. Faithful God, hold us deep in that truth even as you move us into your new creation. Creating and re-creating God, take us in our uncertainties and make us new. We pray in the name of your Son, who has gone ahead of us into your new future and who beckons us to follow. Amen.**

Hymn 10 Dedications

Craig Barnes

- ♦ In honor of those negotiating for world peace, given by Craig & Marcia Barnes
- ♦ In honor of First Responders, Doctors & Nurses, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ♦ Given in loving memory of Walter Hobbs, our brother, by Martha and Brad Hobbs
- ♦ Given by Barbara Larsen in memory of Dana Larsen - husband
- ♦ In memory of Barbara Opie, given by Jean and Bill Opie

\*Hymn #10

*America the Beautiful*

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
for amber waves of grain;  
for purple mountain majesties  
above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace  
on thee,  
and crown thy good with brotherhood  
from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating  
strife, who more than self their country  
loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine,  
till all success be nobleness, and every gain  
divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees  
beyond the years thine alabaster cities  
gleam, undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God mend thine every  
flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy  
liberty in law.

\*Benediction

Postlude



*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Keith Ciccone and Rick Mirkin, in memory of their parents.*



## FIRST CHURCH BRAINTREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Meetings

Search Team Discussion - Sunday, May 18 during coffee hour.

Pastor Karen will discuss forming a team to search for our next settled pastor.

Leadership Team - Tuesday, May 20 @ 7pm on zoom

Book Discussion - Thursday, May 22 @ 7pm on zoom


Prudential - Thursday, June 5 @ 10am

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Don't forget to add to your fish box!

18 OGHS helps with housing. Give a quarter in gratitude for having a home	19 Globally the average space per person is 215sq feet. Give a dime for each extra 100 sq feet you have.	20 Do you have heat? Give a quarter for the blessing of heat.	21 We think about workers who care for us and those we love. Today, pray for workers across the world especially those in healthcare.	22 A light switch is a modern miracle. Count all your light switches! Give a nickel for each one. Let there be light!	23 Rebuilding after disasters is a long term task. OGHS helps long term. Give a nickel for each year you've lived in your current home.	24 Safe homes mean no malarial mosquitoes. Give a quarter for having screens or AC to keep away bugs.
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# Food Drive



**Join First Church Braintree  
for our Spring Food Drive**

You can donate food from now  
until June 1st before worship.  
(drop in the Narthex)

**Or bring it to the church's  
Drive and Drop collection on  
June 4th from 5-6:30pm**

We partner with the Marge Crispin Center to  
feed local elders, schoolkids, families and others  
who don't have enough food.

Bring in non-perishable items like soup,  
beans, vegetables, pasta, peanut butter,  
tuna, fruit cups, paper products, TP,  
feminine hygiene items and more.



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