



"Our popular exclamation – *I'll believe it when I see it* – should probably be modified slightly but significantly:
I'll believe it when I do it."

~ Rev. David Lose

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Call to Worship

To see the life that unfolds around us,

To give thanks for the long awaited sun;

To notice the beauty and promise of spring,

To breathe deeply of the season;

To accept the gift of love, and to love in return:

This is to worship God.

Let us stand and join our voices together.

*Hymn 13

Bring Many Names

Unison Prayer c.Sarah Agnew, Pray the Story, adapt.

Jesus, tell us again who you are, for we have failed to listen.

Show us again who you are, for we are blind, inattentive.

Call us again, in your voice, for we tuned in to others.

Jesus, we are stubborn, slow to learn, and we ask again: forgive us.

For to know you is to live as you lived.

To be known by you is to let go of fear and apathy.

To love you is to listen and to follow. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

John 10: 22-30

At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jewish leaders gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe.

* Indicates all who are able may stand

Please silence your cell phones

The works that I do in God's name testify to me, but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What God has given me is greater than all else. God and I are one."

Acts 9:36-43

Down the road a way in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, "Gazelle" in our language. She was well-known for doing good and helping out. During the time Peter was in the area she became sick and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial and put her in a cool room.

Some of the disciples had heard that Peter was visiting in nearby Lydda and sent two men to ask if he would be so kind as to come over. Peter got right up and went with them. They took him into the room where Tabitha's body was laid out. Her old friends, most of them widows, were in the room mourning. They showed Peter pieces of clothing the Gazelle had made while she was with them. Peter put the widows all out of the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke directly to the body: "Tabitha, get up."

She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. He took her hand and helped her up. Then he called in the believers and widows, and presented her to them alive. When this became known all over Joppa, many put their trust in the Master. Peter stayed on a long time in Joppa as a guest of Simon the Tanner.

*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

"I Told You Already"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Hymn 354

Open My Eyes, That I May See

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.

Musical Reflection

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

Jesus our Shepherd,

Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others, bringing the promise of the kingdom near by our words and deeds. With thanks for all we have received and by offering our gifts to you, we pray, Amen.

*Hymn 578

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*Benediction

Postlude



First Church Braintree Announcements

There is no coffee hour after worship today.

Upcoming Meetings, Events & Discussions

- Memorial Hymn Sing - Sunday, May 18 @ 9:30
Last chance to make a hymn request!
Forms must be turned in by tomorrow (Monday, 5/12) @ noon
- 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 at 7pm on zoom
- Drive & Drop Food Drive - resumes Wednesday, June 4 @ 5:30-7pm
- Annual Ministry Meeting -- Sunday, June 8 after worship
- Prudential Team - Sunday, June 5 at 10am in the office

Printed Weekly Blast

The church office will print copies of the weekly email blast for those who aren't online. If you would like a printed copy of the blast for yourself or someone else, please let Deb or Pastor Karen know. Tell us if you'd like to pick it up here at Sunday worship or have it mailed it to your home. We will be mailing the blast to our "at home" folks who do not receive emails and can not attend in person.

Book Study Group: New Book!!!

The next discussion is Thursday, May 22 @ 7:00pm via zoom. If you would like to stretch your faith a bit, take it out for a walk into a new neighborhood, join the Book Study Group for our next book, Tattoos on the Heart. See the weekly blast for details.

One Great Hour of Sharing

11 We are blessed to have great lay leaders. Give a quarter for the spiritual food you received today at church	12 Our church musicians make a joyful noise—organ, piano, voice! Give a quarter in thanks for their gifts!	13 We have a lovely sanctuary supported by love and hard work. Give a quarter in thanks for the building.	14 Our kids and youth bring us hope and joy. Give a quarter in thanks for their presence. OGHS supports kids all over the world.	15 Our people show up rain or shine, snow or heat. Give a quarter in thanks for being together.	16 Our elders remind us of our church history and a long life lived in faith. Give a quarter in thanks for them.	17 Every week people come to help: ushers, readers, coffee hour treats, prayers, meetings. Pray in thanks for our church people
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WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church.

Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



About Today's Service: We are live-streaming today's service. Playback is available on our YouTube channel:

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

Prayer Lists are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Listening Devices are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Please wear a **nametag**. They are available in the Narthex.

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.

First Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am—1:00pm.

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



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

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Ninth Annual Memorial Hymn Sing Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 9:30 AM

If you would like to sponsor one or more of the following hymns *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* a loved one, please indicate their name, your hymn choice and amount of donation. Suggested donation per hymn is \$10.

To ensure your request is included in our special bulletin, please return your request form to the church office or place it on the collection plate ***no later than Monday, May 12.***

Choice of Hymns:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Holy, Holy, Holy! | 6. Here I Am Lord |
| 2. In The Garden | 7. Amazing Grace |
| 3. The Old Rugged Cross | 8. How Great Thou Art |
| 4. Precious Lord Take My Hand | 9. Let There Be Peace On Earth |
| 5. Morning Has Broken | 10. America The Beautiful |

MEMORIAL HYMN SING REQUEST FORM

Please PRINT the names below *exactly* as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.

Name of Contributor(s): _____

Please Check One:

Hymn #	Hymn Choice	Memory of	Honor of	In Memory of or Honor of <small>(Please print name clearly, exactly as you wish it listed.)</small>	Amount Donated <small>(Suggested amount is \$10 per hymn.)</small>
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$

All checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church of Braintree.
Please write "Hymn Sing" in the memo. **Total Donation:**