



April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

9:30 AM



What Resurrection Looks Like

** Indicates all who are able may stand*

Please silence your cell phones



Faith given back to us after a night of doubt is a far stronger thing, and far more valuable to us, than faith that has never been tested.

~ Elizabeth Goudge

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

9:30 AM

Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ
Justin Ouellet, violin
Minjin Chung, cello

Easter Proclamation

He is Risen!

He is Risen!

He is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Glory to God, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, he is risen today!

*Introit

Celtic Alleluia

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...

*Call to Worship c. Janet Morley, christianaid.org.uk

When we are all despairing,
when the world is full of grief,
when we see no way ahead
and hope has gone away...

Roll back the stone!

Although we fear change,
although we are not ready,
although we'd rather weep
and run away...

Roll back the stone!

Because we're coming with the women,
because we hope where hope is vain,
because you call us from the grave
and show the way...

Roll back the stone!

*Hymn 196

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Unison Prayer

Loving God,

We confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.

Forgive us for not truly living the Good News.

Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ.

Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope, work at reconciliation, participate in restoration and bring peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

Isaiah 65:17-25

"Pay close attention now: I'm creating new heavens and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos, and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I'm creating: I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I'll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people: No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish; No more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don't enjoy a full lifetime; One-hundredth birthdays will be considered normal—anything less will seem like a cheat.

"They'll build houses and move in. They'll plant fields and eat what they grow. No more building a house that some outsider takes over, No more planting fields that some enemy confiscates, For my people will be as long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work. They won't work and have nothing come of it, they won't have children snatched out from under them.

"For they themselves are plantings blessed by God, with their children and grandchildren likewise God-blessed. Before they call out, I'll answer. Before they've finished speaking, I'll have heard. Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow, lion and ox eat straw from the same trough, but snakes—they'll get a diet of dirt! Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill anywhere on my Holy Mountain," says God.

Luke 24:1-12

At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.

They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" Then they remembered Jesus' words.

They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up.

But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

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.*

Meditation

What Resurrection Looks Like

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Special Music

How Beautiful

Twila Paria
Douglas Trudeau, Baritone

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 200

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Easter Song

Annie Herring
Doug Trudeau, Nancy Mills, Keith Ciccone

*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

**Generous and surprising God,
When we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these offerings into gifts that will transform the world, and again with your ability to transform us into bearers of love and hope. With thanks for all your good gifts, especially the gift of Easter, we pray, Amen.**

*Hymn 58

Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Benediction

Postlude

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



Thank you to our Music Director **Keith Ciccone** and our guest musicians for providing today's beautiful music.

Boston-based cellist **Minjin Chung** enjoys an active career as a performer and educator. Born in South Korea, Minjin moved to the U.S. at the age of 5 and grew up in Blacksburg, Virginia where she began her musical studies. Upon falling madly in love with classical music at the age of 17, she graduated from high school a year early to focus on preparing for music school auditions. She was awarded a full tuition scholarship to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received her master's degree at the New England Conservatory.

Justin Ouellet has performed internationally from California to France, collaborating with musicians from all different backgrounds. His training as a classical musician has awarded him opportunities to perform with members of prestigious groups around the world ranging from the Philadelphia Orchestra to Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Justin has received recognition for his talents as an artist and educator, receiving the San Jose Jazz Live Aid Grant, Academy of Gospel of Music Educator of the Year and voted best Jazz Instrumentalist by San Francisco Classical Voice. He has produced three solo albums, one with his band d'PaJo, which pays homage to the great Stephanie Grappelli (the d'PaJo Sessions, 2021) as well as: "The 25th Street Sessions" (2019), & "Justin Ouellet: The Covid Sessions", which was released this fall. He and his wife, Ann Moss, split their time between California and Massachusetts.

Doug Trudeau is a multi-talented musician, performer, educator and entrepreneur. He recently retired as the director of Fine and Performing Arts for the Waltham Public Schools where he oversaw a staff of 50 educators and para-professionals and managed all aspects of the music, art and drama programs within the district. Mr. Trudeau has had formal training in ballroom, tap, jazz and ballet. In the 90ies, he founded a professional theater company called Showstoppers, Inc. which produced theatrical productions that were seen throughout the United States. Since 1999, his Trudeau Tours has created developed, and implemented a variety of travel experiences for groups. Doug lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife Kim. They have two adult children, Ashley and Tyler.



THE EASTER FLOWERS WHICH ADORN THE SANCTUARY ARE

GIVEN BY SUSAN & RALPH ALTMAIER

In memory of Dr. Lewis and Alma Lynch

In honor of Rev. Karen Gale

In honor of Glenn Holton

In memory of Mary Van Dyke Shaw (Susan's grandmother)

In honor of Keith Ciccone

In honor of Archie and Dennis

GIVEN BY CRAIG & MARCIA BARNES

in memory of Barbara & Delwyn Barnes

in memory of those of the Magowan Clan, now passed

GIVEN BY DONALD BISSET

in memory of Noreen Bisset

in memory of Jennie Bisset

GIVEN BY KEITH CICCONE & RICK MIRKIN

in memory of Grace & Louis Ciccone, parents

in memory of Francis & Arthur Mirkin, Jr., parents

in memory of friends and family

GIVEN BY CARL & DIANE FRANCIS

in memory of Paul & Jean Francis

in memory of Joseph & Helen St. Cyr

GIVEN BY SALLY GALVIN

in memory of James Galvin

In memory of Susan Leonard

GIVEN BY MARTHA & BRADFORD HOBBS

in loving memory of our parents Ruth & William Hobbs

in loving memory of Walter Hobbs, our brother

GIVEN BY THE HOLTON FAMILY

in memory of Harold and Priscilla Belcher
in memory and honor of Ken Holton and Prue Holton

GIVEN BY KRIS JOHNSON

in memory of the Johnson and Nielsen families
in memory of my friend, Roberta Smith

GIVEN BY THOMAS, TOM & MATTIE

in memory of Ruth, Dick & Shawn Hewson
in memory of Bert Gietman
in memory of Helen & Edward MacDonald

GIVEN BY TOM & MATTIE

in honor of Thomas

GIVEN BY NANCY J. MILLS

in loving memory of Natalie & Clifford Bates (deacon)
in loving memory of Wayne Mills, husband
In honor of the lantosca family for their music and dedication to FCC

GIVEN BY JEAN OPIE

in honor of Elijah
In honor of Will

GIVEN BY GRACE REINELT

in honor of loved ones

GIVEN BY HER FAMILY

in memory of Nancy P. South





Welcome! *Thank you for joining us this morning!*

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.*



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.

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.



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

