



We all have our sacred cows, figuratively speaking.
Sometimes they're people – sometimes, ideas or plans –
sometimes they're policies or programs – sometimes
structures or institutions.

~ Monsignor Robert Stern

October 25, 2026

Twenty-Second 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

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

God of life, in your hand we find our lives.

Be present with us in this time together.

Let your Spirit mold us, shape us and remake us

this morning, this day, and every day

Until we conform to the shape that you call us to take;

the shape of love known and shown in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*Hymn 7

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Unison Prayer

God of mercy,

in our impatience for answers and fear the unknown,

we sometimes turn to idols of our own making

and forget our covenant with you.

We passionately crave to be right,

and wrong those with whom we differ.

We seek security, familiarity and comfort rather than time

in the desert wilderness, or down the Jesus-marked path.

Forgive us when the lure of idols turns us from you.

Remind us that no human created thing is sacred. Only you are sacred.

May we remember that with humility as we wait upon you. Amen.

A Time for All Ages

**Indicates all who are able may stand.*

Please silence your cell phones.

Scripture

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So they took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclaimed, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD's mind was changed about the disaster that was planned upon the people.

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your

minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*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

"Golden Calves and Sacred Cows"

*Hymn 406

The Prayer of St. Francis

Prayer 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.

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

**We remember a God who is faithful.
We remember that our lives are gifts.
We remember that we belong to one another.
We remember that there is more to life
than what we can see, possess or control.
And so, we give thanks to God, and offer our money and ourselves, for
God is good; God's faithful love endures forever. Amen.**

*Hymn 470

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

*Benediction

Postlude

First Church Braintree Announcements

FIRST WEDNESDAY FOOD DRIVE



Drive and Drop Sign Up Sheet

Please see what month you could help with the food collection for Marge Crispin. Each month our church's contributions make a huge difference in combatting food insecurity and hunger. Sign Up at Coffee Hour or call Deb in the office.

The next Collection is

Wednesday, November 4th between 5 - 6:30 pm

All Saints Day: Sunday November 1st

For this year's All Saints Day Pastor Karen is collecting names of people we have loved and lost and wish to be remembered. Please email her, call the office, or mail her names of those loved ones before the Nov. 1st service. Together we will remember those we lose to death, but are assured have risen to new life in Christ.

Youth Group "Rake & Run"

On Sunday, November 8 the Youth Group will hold their annual "Rake & Run" event. What is "Rake & Run", you ask? Just like it sounds...the youth go to the yards of a church member, rake the leaves and run to the next location. Nominate someone's yard for raking by Saturday 11/7 by contacting Mattie.

CPR Class Offered - November 1st 1-4pm at First Church

Learn revised CPR methods and AED operation

Deadline to sign up is this Sunday, 10/25. Tell Mattie if you want to participate.

Cost per person is \$75

Congregational Listening Session - Sunday, October 25 following worship

Book Study Group Thursday, October 29 @7pm (note the change of date) on Zoom



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