



August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Glenn Holton

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

*Call to Worship ucc.org

Like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like a roof, God is over our heads.

Like the horizon, God is beyond us.

Like water in a pitcher, God is within us and in the pouring out of us.

Like a pebble in the sea, we are in God.

Let us worship together the God of all life. Let us lift up our voices as

God's people. Amen.

*Hymn 361

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Unison Prayer

God of faithfulness and glory, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Fill us now with Your presence. Teach us to trust not in buildings, routines, or our own understanding, but in You alone. Your Word stands forever, Your mercy is new every morning, and Your promises never change. Lead us by Your Spirit, steady our hearts, and help us remain faithful wherever You call us to stay or to go. We rest in Your unchanging love, and we give You all honor and praise. Amen.

* *Indicates all who are able may stand.*

Please silence your cell phones.

Scripture

John 4:19-26

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he”

Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort for God’s People

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out.”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.

Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

*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

"The Church Has Left the Building"

Glenn Holton

*Hymn 497

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

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.

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

We offer these gifts, O God of all people, in the hope and trust that you will use them to bring healing and hope where there is need. Where natural disaster has befallen, may these gifts help build new life. Where refugees seek safety from violence and fear, may these gifts enable caring and welcoming hearts and hands. Where hatred sullies your hope for your human family, may our gifts be a sign and instrument of reconciliation. Thank you, God, for the privilege of this offering. May it indeed do more than we can imagine! Amen.

*Hymn 249

Standing on the Promises

*Benediction

Postlude



Thank you to today's Deacon: Tom King
And to our Coffee Hour Host: Barbara Larsen

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD

Pastor Karen is on vacation from August 7 – 22.

If you need emergency pastoral care while Karen is away, please contact Rev. Andy Burr, retired UCC pastor, who is providing coverage.

Phone: 978-790-8250 or Email: AndrewCBurr@comcast.net

Deb is on vacation from September 8 – 10.

The office is closed on Mondays.



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.

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