



Happiness depends on what happens;  
joy does not.

~ Oswald Chambers

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June 29, 2025

Third Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

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Prelude

Keith Ciccone, piano

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

*Lead Me Lord*

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,

Make Thy way plain before my face.

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, only,

that makest me dwell in safety.

\*Call to Worship

Look to the mountains; look to the hills!

**Love comes to us with joy!**

The world is filled with beauty.

**Flowers appear on the earth, birdsong brightens the day.**

Crops yield their produce in abundance, the air is filled with sweetness.

**The summer of God's love is with us.**

Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

**Arise and sing for joy!**

\*Hymn

*Ode to Joy*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;**

**Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Op'ning to the sun above.**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;**

**Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,**

**Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,**

**Singing bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,**

**Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!**

**Thou Creator, Christ our Brother, All who live in love are Thine;**

**Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine**

\* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cell phones

Unison Prayer -prayers from Christian Aid, UK, inspired by Psalm 51:12

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation, Lord.**

**May refugees be restored to safety.**

**May flooded land be restored to fertile ground.**

**May broken hearts be restored to wholeness.**

**May fearful lives be restored to peaceful rest.**

**May compassion fatigue be restored to hopeful perseverance.**

**Restore to us the joy of your salvation, Lord.**

**May we seek lasting joy, and hold fast to its promise.**

**Amen.**

Children's Time

Scripture

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Philippians 4: 4-10, 13

\*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

*"All You Need is Joy"*

Rev. Karen E. Gale

\*Hymn

*I've Got That Joy, Joy, Joy*

**I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart**

**Down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart**

**Down in my heart to stay.**

**I've got that love, love, love, love down in my heart**

**Down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got that love, love, love, love down in my heart**

**Down in my heart to stay.**

**I've got that peace, peace, peace, peace down in my heart**

**Down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got that peace, peace, peace, peace down in my heart**

**Down in my heart to stay.**

**I've got that hope, hope, hope, hope down in my heart**

**Down in my heart, down in my heart.**

**I've got that hope, hope, hope, hope down in my heart**

**Down in my heart to stay.**

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.**

## 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

**Creating God,**

**You are the source of summer's splendor—**

**the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers,**

**and the sweet sound of wind in the boughs.**

**We worship you today, grateful for all of your wonders.**

**May joy root deeply within us, as the trees sit firmly in the soil.**

**May joy flow out of us, with our gifts, with our words, with our actions of love and justice. Amen.**

### \*Hymn This Joy I Have (tune: This Little Light of Mine)

**Th-is joy I have...the world didn't give it to me. (3x)**

**The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

**Th-is love I have...the world didn't give it to me. (3x)**

**The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

**Th-is peace I have...the world didn't give it to me. (3x)**

**The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

### \*Benediction

## Postlude



Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. For the Lord will remove the hand of judgment and disperse the armies of your enemy. And the Lord, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over—you need fear no more.

On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, “Cheer up, don’t be afraid. For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will give you victory. He will rejoice over you with great gladness; he will love you and not accuse you.” Is that a joyous choir I hear? No, it is the Lord himself exulting over you in happy song!

“I have gathered your wounded and taken away your reproach. And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones, and bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory to my former exiles, mocked and shamed.

“At that time, I will gather you together and bring you home again, and give you a good name, a name of distinction among all the peoples of the earth, and they will praise you when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord.

#### Philippians 4: 4-10, 13

Dear brother Christians, I love you and long to see you, for you are my joy and my reward for my work. My beloved friends, stay true to the Lord.

Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon. Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don’t forget to thank the Lord for answers. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. God’s peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

And now, sisters and brothers, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about. Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you...

...for I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether it be a full stomach or hunger, plenty or want; for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.

## First Church Braintree Announcements

### Upcoming Meetings, Events & Discussions

Prudential - Thursday, July 10 @ 10am in the pastor's office

Leadership Team - Tuesday, July 15 @ 7pm on zoom

Book Discussion - Thursday, July 10 @ 7pm on zoom

### Next Drive & Drop Food Drive: July 2nd @ 5:00-6:30PM

All donations are given to the Marge Crispin Center to help our neighbors here in Braintree.



This month, they are in particular need of:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Tissues
- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure)



Thank you to all who donated grocery gift cards - we have given them all away!

If you would like to support this mission then please purchase one or more gift cards in \$10 or \$20 denominations from Shaw's and drop them in the collection plate or in the office.

Thank you for your generosity!

**Reminder: The office is closed on Mondays from now through Labor Day**

### Youth Group June/July Schedule

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** - Last regular meet. HIDE-AND-SEEK/SARDINES BATTLE

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** - NO YOUTH GROUP

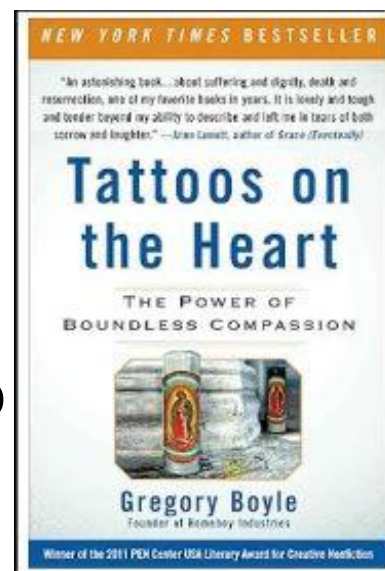
**July 13<sup>th</sup>** - Summer Kick-off – Castle Island day – Meet at the church at 11:15, head to Castle Island, have lunch, play games, fly kites, and enjoy the sun! Permission slips and bagged lunch or money for Sullivan's required!

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** - NO YOUTH GROUP

**July 27<sup>th</sup>** - \*Camp themed outing\* - *Camp Box Painting Pool Party - 12-4 in Norwell.* Bring your Tuff Boxes (or lids)! This is being hosted by Robert Caldeira (Bob from camp!) and sponsored by the United Church of Norwell. We will meet at first church around 11:20 and head down. We'll decorate our camp boxes, eat, swim, play games, and discuss all things camp! Permission slip required.

First  
Church  
Braintree

### Book Study Group



Next zoom meeting:  
Thursday, July 10 @ 7pm



**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.



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