



February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Keith Ciccone, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michael Frady

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Tree of Life*

*Light of life beyond conceiving, Mighty Spirit of our Lord;
Give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live Your word.
Give us faith to live Your word.
From the dawning of creation, You have loved us as Your own;
Stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to You alone,
Make us turn to You alone.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Happy are those whose transgressions are forgiven.

Happy are those who receive God's mercy.

Rejoice and be glad, you upright in heart.

Shout for joy, you people of God.

Let us worship the one who give us strength to resist temptation in the wilderness of our lives.

*HYMN 173

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

* Indicates all who are able may stand

Please silence your cell phones

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

We listen for your voice, Holy God, amid the clamor of a world that scarcely notices this season of self-examination and instruction. Too long we have heeded the serpents among us whose craftiness beckons us away from faith and faithfulness. We delight in forbidden fruits and complain when they turn sour. Lead us, faithful Spirit, through the wilderness of our own creation, that we may once more find our way to you. Instruct us in the way we should go, and counsel us day by day. Help us rediscover your steadfast love. Amen.

***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.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4: 1-11

Craig Barnes

SERMON

“Tests, Trials, and Triumph”

Rev. Michael Frady

HYMN 325

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, 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.

OFFERTORY DEDICATION

***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**

Gracious God, work through the gifts we offer this day. As we provide loaves of bread for the hungry, work through our offering, that others may be fed, not only in body, but also in spirit. As we seek to bring justice to our world, may we embody faith in your righteous love that your people may know the source of their hope. Amen.

HYMN

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

*1 Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.*

*3 When I reach the River Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.*

*2 Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE





THANK YOU for joining us at this Service of Worship First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:

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

Non-perishable Food Pantry donations are collected for The Marge Crispin Center on the **first Wednesday of the Month** in front of the church. Contact free! Just drive by and drop. Or place your donations in the basket in LPH or the Narthex. Thank you!

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.



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FIRST CHURCH BRAINTREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS are available in the back of the church.

Or contact Deb at office@firstchurchbraintree.com to request a copy by mail.

UPCOMING MEETINGS (on zoom unless noted)

O&A Inclusion Team - TODAY, Sunday, February 26 after coffee hour (chapel)

Egg Hunt Planning - Sunday, March 5 after coffee hour (chapel)

Staff Meeting - Tuesday, March 7 at 11am (Pastor's office)

Deacons - Tuesday, March 7 at 7pm

Prudential Team - Thursday, March 9 at 10am (Pastor's office)

Book Study/Prayer Team - Thursday, March 9 at 7pm

Leadership Team - Tuesday, March 14 at 7pm

O&A Inclusion Team - Thursday, March 16 at 7pm

Book Study/Prayer Team - Thursday, March 30 at 7pm

FIRST WEDNESDAY FOOD DRIVE - Wednesday, March 1 from 5:00—6:30pm

Thank you to Karen Boyle and Al Giordani for volunteering to collect the food donations on March 1st and to Mary Iantosca for delivering the items to Marge Crispin. Craig & Marcia Barnes will collect on April 5th. Please let Pastor Michael know if you'd like to help with the May 3rd collection.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRAINTREE



CROCKPOT CHALLENGE



SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023
following the 9:30 Worship Service

Enter your favorite crockpot recipe in one of four categories:
Soup ~ Chili ~ Chowder ~ Other

Prizes (and bragging rights) will be awarded in each category.
Plus Diner's Choice Award to Best Overall Dish

★ Sign up in the Lower Parish Hall ★