



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

First Congregational Church of Braintree, United Church of Christ



The resurrection of Jesus means the worst thing
is never the last thing."

~ Frederick Buechner

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

9:30am

Prelude

Morning Has Broken
Alleluia, The Strife is Over
How Beautiful

Keith Ciccone, organ
David Cutshall, saxophone
Justin Oulette, violin

Easter Proclamation

He is Risen!

He is Risen!

He is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Glory to God, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

*Introit

Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia

You are the Christ everlasting

born for us all of a virgin

You have conquered death, opened heaven to all believers

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen E. Gale

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cell phones.

*Call to Worship c.Cheryl Lawrie, holdthatspace.com

We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light,

We gather to remember that love will always be more powerful than death,

We gather in trust that peace will always be stronger than violence.

We gather as people of faith in the light of God's world.

Welcome to worship!

Let's celebrate this Easter morning!

*Hymn 196

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Children's Time

Scripture

Colossians 3:1-4

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

John 20:1-18

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

“They took my Master,” she said, “and I don’t know where they put him.” After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t recognize him.

Jesus spoke to her, “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?”

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, “Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him.”

Jesus said, “Mary.”

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” meaning “Teacher!” Jesus said, “Don’t cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to God. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: “I saw the Master!” And she told them everything he said to her.

*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

“Called by Name”

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Special Music

We Remember

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 forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

The Easter Song

*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

The Sacrament of Communion

All people are invited to the communion table. Everyone. There is no age requirement or faith requirement. You don't have to be a member. No ID or reservation is required. This is Jesus' table. He invited everyone, so we do too. We pass the bread in the pews, hold it, and eat it together once everyone is served. We do the same thing with the cups of grape juice.

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Hymn 307

We Are Called

Prayer of Consecration and Words of Institution

*Hymn 58

Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Benediction

Postlude

Keith Ciccone

David Cutshall



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.



The Easter Flowers which adorn the Sanctuary are

given by Susan & Ralph Altmaier

In memory of Dr. Lewis and Alma Lynch (Susan's Parents)

In memory of Cecil and Hilda Altmaier (Ralph's Parents)

In honor of Nancy Mills

given by Craig & Marcia Barnes

in memory of Barbara & Delwyn Barnes

in memory of Glendolyn & Norman Magowan

given by Donald Bisset

in memory of Noreen Bisset & Dorothy McGrory

in memory of Jennie Bisset

given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin

in memory of Louis & Grace Ciccone, parents

in memory of Arthur & Frances Mirkin, Sr., parents

given by David Cutshall

in memory of Ronald Asper

given by David Cutshall & Emily Muraca

in honor of our grandparents

given by Carl & Diane Francis

In honor of our grandchildren, A.J., Courtney, Libby & Tommy

in memory of Paul & Jean Francis

in memory of Joseph & Helen St. Cyr

given by Karen Gale

in honor of all who shepherd people from life to death and beyond:

hospice workers, caregivers, EMTs, nurses and chaplains

given by Sally Galvin
in memory of James Galvin

given by Martha and Bradford Hobbs
in loving memory of our parents, Ruth & William Hobbs
in loving memory of our brother, Walter (Sandy) Hobbs

given by Kris Johnson
in memory of my husband, Jim Lynch
in memory of my parents and brother

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 & Anna

given by Tom & Cathy King
in memory of Tom & Norma King

given by Nancy J. Mills
in loving memory of our "bagpipe ladies" - Trudy Stone and Valerie Johnson
in loving memory of my dad, Clifford Bates on his 111th birthday in March
in honor of my granddaughter, Jessica Mills on her 15th birthday in March

given by Emily Muraca
in memory of Leona Preble

given by Jean & Bill Opie
in memory of Barbara Opie
in memory of Mary Longi

given by Grace Reinelt
in honor of loved ones



Justin Ouellet is an award winning performer and educator who has garnered a reputation as a fearless artist as well as a dedicated pedagogue. In addition to cultivating an accomplished career as a classical musician on both violin and viola, Ouellet moves effortlessly between a multitude of genres as a composer, arranger, and multi-instrumentalist performer.

As a recording artist, engineer, and producer, Justin has been involved in dozens of projects ranging from at-home to big-budget recordings at Skywalker Sound. Most recent recordings include Ann Moss Lifeline and Justin Ouellet: The Covid Sessions, both released in the fall of 2022. Justin and his wife Ann are both members of the Recording Academy and split their time between Boston and California. Find out more @ justinouellet.com



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.



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