



Unity is not absence of disagreement but a
consensus to agree to work together."
~ Ian Traill

October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

In the Breaking of the Bread

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

Buenos Dias, we worship this day with our sisters and brothers in faith from Latin America, the church in Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, and El Salvador

Hallelujah for the diverse peoples of God!

Salaam aleiku, we worship this day with our sisters and brothers in faith from the Middle East, the church in Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Hallelujah for the diverse peoples of God!

Siyabonga, we worship this day with our sisters and brothers in faith from Africa, the church in Zimbabwe, Mali, Ethiopia, Angola, Senegal, and the Maldives.

Hallelujah for the diverse peoples of God!

Wuneekeesuq, She-yo, Han, Ai, we worship this day with our sisters and brothers in faith who are natives to their lands, the church of the Wampanoag, Lakota, Cherokee, Inuit, and all First Peoples.

Hallelujah for the diverse peoples of God!

From the east, the west, the north, the south, we worship the God who unites us as one people.

Hallelujah for the diverse peoples of God!

*Hymn 484

The Church's One Foundation

**Indicates all who are able may stand.*

Please silence your cell phones.

Unison Prayer c. Nolan Palsma, World Communion of Reformed Churches

**We share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
We have one God and Creator, are filled with one Spirit,
are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
We confess one Name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause,
and share one hope.**

**Together we come to know
the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ,
to know and bear one another's burdens,
to admonish and comfort one another;
to suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness.
Together we pray. Together we serve God in this world. Amen.**

A Time for All Ages

Scripture: Isaiah 25:6-10

But here on this mountain, God-of-the-Angel-Armies
will throw a feast for all the people of the world,
A feast of the finest foods, a feast with vintage wines,
a feast of seven courses, a feast lavish with gourmet desserts.
And here on this mountain, God will banish the pall of doom hanging over all peoples,
The shadow of doom darkening all nations.

Yes, God will banish death forever. And wipe the tears from every face and remove
every sign of disgrace from God's people, wherever they are. Yes! God says so!
Also at that time, people will say, "Look at what's happened! This is our God!
We waited for the Lord and God showed up and saved us!
This God, the one we waited for!
Let's celebrate, sing the joys of his salvation. God's hand rests on this mountain!"

I Corinthians 10:1-3, 17-18

Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the
providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. They went through the
waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation
life. They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God.
They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever
they were...

When we drink the cup of blessing, aren't we taking into ourselves the blood, the
very life, of Christ? And isn't it the same with the loaf of bread we break and eat?
Don't we take into ourselves the body, the very life, of Christ? Because there is one
loaf, our many-ness becomes one-ness—Christ doesn't become fragmented in us.
Rather, we become unified in him. We don't reduce Christ to what we are; he
raises us to what he is. That's basically what happened even in old Israel—those
who ate the sacrifices offered on God's altar entered into God's action at the altar.

*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

"Why Celebrate World Communion?"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Musical Reflection

Fill My Cup, Lord

Keith Ciccone

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

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Hymn Kumbaya (Gullah Geechee spiritual)

v. 1 Kumbaya, my Lord, kumbayax3

Oh, Lord, kumbaya

Prayer of Confession

v2. Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya....3x

Oh, Lord, kumbaya

Words of Institution/Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread

v3. Someone's crying, Lord, kumbaya...3x

Oh, Lord, kumbaya

Sharing of the Cup

v4. Come by here, my Lord, come by here...3x

Oh, Lord, kumbaya

Prayer of Thanksgiving c.Heather Prince Doss

**You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus,
to unite us with you and with brothers and sisters around the world.
Go with us now into that world,
that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees,
of freedom among the oppressed,
of hope amid persecution,
of peace amid violence,
of living faith amid a culture of skepticism,
and of loving kindness toward the earth and all her inhabitants. Amen.**

*Hymn 355

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

*Benediction

Postlude

Panis Angelicus



Thank you to today's Deacon: Jean Opie
And to our Coffee Hour Host: Barbara Larsen



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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