



What healing work has come to your door?
For yourself? For other people? How are you
called to join in the mission of healing and
wholeness at this point in your life?

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you!

Peace be 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 ++

O God of Change and Stillness, of Wounds and Repair, in you we find our sense of balance—a place to land and to breathe.

May we grow connections of community and care.

May grace touch all that changes us as we gather in this space claiming healing as our birthright.

O God, transform us, that we may transform the world.

On this Health and Human Service Sunday, let us come together with the medicines of service and compassion,

And move like living water—ever adapting, ever faithful, ever full of all that could be. Amen.

*Hymn 7

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Unison Prayer ++

O God of Becoming, we know we are your beloved, and come to name the messy reality of being human.

In your presence, we do not shy away from our struggles, failings, or regrets.

By your invitation, we come to you not in shame, but with courage, seeking right relationship, with you, with ourselves, each other, and all of creation.

Guide us in your ways of accountability, with remedies of repair and reconciliation.

May we let go of all that has been in order to make space to learn from our wrongdoing, without spiraling into self-hate or apathy.

Help us to believe change is possible, in ourselves and others, so healing can ripple outwards and bring forth what is new and of You. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 1:29-42

[One day] John saw Jesus coming toward him and yelled out, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb! He forgives the sins of the world! This is the man I've been talking about, 'the One who comes after me but is really ahead of me.' I knew nothing about who he was—only this: that my task has been to get Israel ready to recognize him as the God-Revealer. That is why I came here baptizing with water, giving you a good bath and scrubbing sins from your life so you can get a fresh start with God."

John clinched his witness with this: "I watched the Spirit, like a dove flying down out of the sky, making himself at home in him. I repeat, I know nothing about him except this: The One who authorized me to baptize with water told me, 'The One on whom you see the Spirit come down and stay, this One will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' That's exactly what I saw happen, and I'm telling you, there's no question about it: This is the Son of God."

The next day John was back at his post with two disciples, who were watching. He looked up, saw Jesus walking nearby, and said, "Here he is, God's Passover Lamb." The two disciples heard him and went after Jesus. Jesus looked over his shoulder and said to them, "What are you after?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" Jesus replied, "Come along and see for yourself." They came, saw where he was living, and ended up staying with him for the day. It was late afternoon when this happened.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus. Jesus took one look up and said, "You're John's son, Simon? From now on your name is Cephas" (or Peter, which means "Rock").

*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 Body of Christ"

*Hymn 399

He Touched Me

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.**

Musical Reflection

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 + +

**God of Humanity, We offer up to you these gifts of time, energy, resources, skills,
and connections. We lovingly place the power of showing up before you and
trust that you will multiply it into a profound sense of your presence moving
within, around, and beyond us. Guide us in right-relationship with these offerings
that we may use them for a just world for all. Amen.**

*Hymn 310

World Peace Prayer

*Benediction

Postlude



+ + Worship liturgy written by Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry, CHHSM Associate for Advocacy and Leadership Development.

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.

First Church Braintree Announcements

Meetings & Events

- Thursday, January 29 @ 10 am in the Chapel - Bible Study: Revelation
- Sunday, February 1 @ 10:30am - Annual Financial Meeting
- Thursday, February 5 @ 10 am in the office - Prudential Meeting
- Sunday, February 8 @ 9:30 am in the Sanctuary - Scout Sunday
- Tuesday, February 17 @ 7pm - Leadership Team on Zoom

Upcoming Memorial Services:

- Saturday, February 7 @ 10 am - Trudy Stone
- Saturday, March 7 @ 10:30 am - Diana Cassidy
- The memorial service for Valerie Johnson has not been scheduled.

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM)

Health and Human Service Sunday is an opportunity for the whole United Church of Christ to bear witness to the UCC's extravagant welcome through service. Together, CHHSM's more than 400 health and human service programs and communities:

- Provide \$1 billion in uncompensated, charitable care.
- Served 2,841,862 individuals including: 21,490 children; 19,710 youth; 16,498 families; 33,581 older adults; 3,717 veterans; and provided community-Based ambulatory health care to over 2.2 million people
- Operated 34,421 residential units including: 21,167 affordable housing units; 10,035 independent living units; and 3,219 assisted living units
- Operated facilities with 6,523 beds providing acute, skilled nursing, and memory care;
- Provided residential and non-residential services to 350+ people with developmental disabilities.



Rev. Karen E. Gale, Interim Pastor ❖ revkarengale@gmail.com

Keith Ciccone, Director of Music ❖ keciccon@aol.com

Mattie Gietman, Dir. Children's Ministry ❖ mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com

Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖ office@firstchurchbraintree.com

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖ finance@firstchurchbraintree.com