



"I earnestly ask that a general congress of women, without limit of nationality, may be appointed ... to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."

~ Julia Ward Howe, Mother's Day Proclamation

May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ Mother's Day

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Yingyu Ren, piano

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen Gale

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Halle Halle Hallelujah

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia.

*Call to Worship

The spirit of God calls us from many places;

Some of us come from busy homes with many people,

Some of us live alone.

We are a part of this family of God.

This week has been different for each of us;

Some of us have had happy news we want to celebrate

Some of us have faced grief and need to cry.

We are members of this family of God.

We all come to this same place;

All of us seeking God's presence in our lives

All of us seeking God's presence with each other.

Together we are the family of God.

*Hymn 247

Come, Thou Almighty King

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cell phones.

Unison Prayer

O God, Our Mother and Creator,

We thank you for tending to us like a caring parent and for your unconditional love.

We do not always care for others like you love us. Sometimes we ignore the cries for help from the children in our backyards and across the oceans.

We forget that Mother's Day was created as a day to take action for peace, and to educate women to ensure the common good.

Help us act for peace and for the wellbeing of all as we seek to imitate your mothering love and your deepest held desires for our good. Amen.

Children's Time

Readings

John 14: 15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees her nor knows her. You know her because she abides with you, and she will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Mother's Day Proclamation, Julia Ward Howe, 1870

Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause.

Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs....

...As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each learning after his own time, the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

*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

"Mother's Day Inheritance"

Rev. Karen Gale

Hymn 227

Breath on Me, Breath of God

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 for ever. Amen.

Musical Response

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

Nurturing God,

**We give thanks for women who have confronted warring powers, challenged violence,
and whose lives, directed by necessity, are moved by compassion.**

**We give thanks for women who saw the needs of all children as their personal
responsibility and who lived their lives in service to all little ones.**

**May this offering continue the work of peace, the work of hope, the work of a good
life for all, in honor of Mother's Day. Amen.**

Hymn 388

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

*Benediction

Postlude



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.

We are live-streaming today's service. Playback is available on our YouTube channel:

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



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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Tenth Annual Memorial Hymn Sing Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 9:30 AM

If you would like to sponsor one or more of the following hymns *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* a loved one, please indicate their name, your hymn choice and amount of donation. Suggested donation per hymn is \$10.

To ensure your request is included in our special bulletin, please place this completed form on the collection plate or return it to the church office ***no later than Monday, May 18.***

Choice of Hymns:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Holy, Holy, Holy! | 6. Here I Am Lord |
| 2. In The Garden | 7. Amazing Grace |
| 3. The Old Rugged Cross | 8. How Great Thou Art |
| 4. Precious Lord Take My Hand | 9. Let There Be Peace On Earth |
| 5. Morning Has Broken | 10. America The Beautiful |

MEMORIAL HYMN SING REQUEST FORM

Please PRINT the names below *exactly* as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.

Name of Contributor(s): _____

Please Check One:

Hymn #	Hymn Choice	<i>Memory of</i>	<i>Honor of</i>	In Memory of or Honor of <small>(Please print name clearly, exactly as you wish it listed.)</small>	Amount Donated <small>(Suggested amount is \$10 per hymn.)</small>
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$

All checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church of Braintree.
Please write "Hymn Sing" in the memo.

Total Donation:

First Church Braintree Announcements

Upcoming Meeting: Church Council Sunday May 17 @11 am in the Chapel

Braintree Pride Event--First Church Braintree Booth

We are participating in Braintree Pride in Watson Park on

Sunday, May 31st from 10-2.

We need church members to hand out water and candy and greet people.

We need folks who can clean up at 2pm.

Please let Pastor Karen know if you can help. Last year we had a great time!



Sponsored Fundraiser

**Tuesday, May 12 - all day
@ the Braintree Chateau Restaurant**

Join your friends at the restaurant or order take-out.
Just make sure you flag your check so we get 20% of your bill!