



May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Keith Ciccone, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tom King

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *Lead Me Lord*

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only,
That makest me dwell in safety. Amen.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Rev. Terry Martinson

Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.

Come to love one another, for love is of God.

We have come to the household of love, for God is love.

Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.

Come! All are welcome here.

HYMN 19

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Almighty God, the soil of your love nurtures the roots of our lives each and every day. As we consecrate ourselves into your loving care, plant us in the soil of your love, that we may abide in Christ, our true vine, and bear the fruit of your love and grace. Give us rain in seasons of doubt and nourish our growth, that our harvest of love may bless the world. In your bountiful name, we pray. Amen.

* Indicates all who are able may stand

Please silence your cell phones

***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

John 15:9-17

Tom King

SERMON

“Friends Forever”

Rev. Terry Martinson

MUSIC RESPONSE

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.

INVITATION TO 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 (Unison)**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! How amazing was the ministry of Jesus Christ! Bless our efforts as we serve in his name. Use the resources we dedicate here to extend our witness in this community and to go where we cannot go, to reach many who do not know you yet. Bless each gift and giver, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN *One Bread, One Body*

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Source of love and life, your glory knows no bounds. We yearn to set aside our fears, but we are often afraid. We long to love our sisters and brothers, but we often feel alienated from them. We desire to abide in you as you abide in us, but we can't seem to figure out how. Show us once more how to love, for only love can cast out our fear. Show us how to love one another well, for only then can we truly know you. Show us how to abide in your vine, for only then can we bear the fruit that glorifies your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 359 *Blessed Assurance*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Rev. Terry Martinson retired in 2013 after serving for 41 years as the pastor of The Old South Union Church in South Weymouth, MA. Retirement did not last long. Beginning in October of 2013 he served for two years as the interim pastor of The Federated Church on Martha's Vineyard, followed by almost three years as the interim pastor of The Dennis Union Church. Terry is a 1969 graduate of Bethany College (W.Va.) and a 1972 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Youth Group Seeds: A Practical Guide to Growing a Youth Group*. Terry and his wife, Marcia, live in Plymouth, MA. They have two sons and five grandchildren.



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.



About Today's Service: We are live-streaming today's service.

Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:

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

Prayer Lists are available at the back of the sanctuary.

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.



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

Mattie Gietman, Children & Youth Ministry ❖ mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com

Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖ office@firstchurchbraintree.com

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖ finance@firstchurchbraintree.com



12 Elm Street, Braintree, MA 02184 ❖ 781-843-3616 ❖ www.firstchurchbraintree.com

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRAINTREE

MEMORIAL HYMN SING

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024 @ 9:30AM

Join us in person or online for our eighth annual musical celebration of faith!

If you would like to sponsor one or more hymns *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* a loved one, please fill out this form. Suggested donation per hymn is \$10. To ensure your request is included in our special bulletin, please return your request form to the church office **no later than Monday, May 20th.** A portion of the hymn sing proceeds will benefit the music ministry of First Church.

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 |

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

Given by: Please PRINT _____

Hymn #	Hymn Choice (abbreviation is fine)	Please Check One:		In Memory of or In Honor of (Please PRINT name clearly, exactly as you wish it listed.)	* Amount Donated
		In Memory	In Honor of		\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$

All checks should be made payable to: First Congregational Church of Braintree.
 *Suggested amount is \$10 per hymn but any amount is gratefully accepted.
 Please write "Hymn Sing" in the memo of your check.

Total Donation: