



We want to believe that we're invulnerable, and that people who get tricked deserve it. Well, they don't. And someday the arrogant types who mock the gullible are likely to get their turn to wear the dunce cap.

--Walter Kirn, novelist

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

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 *Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place*

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,

I can feel His mighty power and His grace.

I can hear the brush of angel's wings

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

*Call to Worship --from Psalms 113 and 92

Blessed by the name of God from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of God shall be praised.

It is good to give thanks to God, to sing praises and to pray to the Most High,

to declare God's steadfast love in the morning, and God's faithfulness by night.

Thanks be to God for this day and for this time of worship.

Thanks be to God for this life and all that is in it. Amen.

*Hymn 2

Holy God We Praise Thy Name

Unison Prayer

You know us, God, better than we know ourselves. You know the ways we scheme and manipulate for our own advantage. You are aware of how often our deeds fail to match the faith we claim. Help us to face ourselves with honesty. Remind us to count all the costs of our actions. Give us the will and courage to change our ways that we may live out the covenant and be a blessing to all we meet. Amen.

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cell phones.

Children's Time and the Blessing of the Backpacks

Scripture

Genesis 29-30

Matthew 6:14-18

Jesus said "In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.

"When you practice some appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God, don't make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity but it won't make you a saint. If you 'go into training' inwardly, act normal outwardly. Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. God doesn't require attention-getting devices. God won't overlook what you are doing; God will reward you well."

*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

"What Goes Around Comes Around"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Musical Reflection

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.

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, we ask that you help us to know the joy of sharing from the abundance you provide. Help us to trust when we feel we do not have enough. We give thanks that you enable us to be givers, as well as receivers. May what we offer here provide helpful ministry to many. May what we offer throughout this week continue our ministry in your name. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Communion Hymn 534

Fill My Cup, Lord

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of our hearts, as we leave this table, may the bread and cup we have received strengthen our faith and renew our spirits. Help us to carry the love, grace, forgiveness and humility of Christ into our daily life. Let this time spent with You deepen our connection to You and to one another. God of the journey, guide our steps, fill us with Your peace, and use us as light for Your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn 432

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

*Benediction

Postlude



Thank you to today's Deacon: Don Bisset
And thanks to Jean Opie, our Coffee Hour Host.

Summer Worship Plan

Sundays in August – Parlor

September 6 - Parlor

September 13 - West Lawn Rally Sunday)

The office is closed on Mondays.

Deb will not be in the office on Mondays and Pastor Karen will be available by appointment. Call her at (517) 899-4851.

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.

**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD**



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