



First Congregational Church of Braintree, UCC



May 24, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
Pentecost Sunday





Let this be my epitaph: 'The only proof he
needed for the existence of God was music.'
~ Kurt Vonnegut

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday - Hymn Sing

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ
Justin Ouellette, violin
Ann Moss, soprano

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...

HYMN 1 DEDICATIONS

- ◇ In memory of Phyllis MacFarland, cherished friend, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ◇ Given by Grace Reinelt in honor of Deb

*HYMN #1

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down
before thee, who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may
not see, only thou art holy; there is none beside
thee, perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth
and sky and sea; holy, holy, holy! merciful and
mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Call to Worship c.Joana Harader, spaciousfaith.com, adapt.

Holy, Creating, Creative God,

We sing as praise and prayer and consolation.

We sing from the abundance of our joy.

We sing from the depths of our sorrow.

We sing in voices separate and unique.

We sing with one voice as your body.

May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song,

**and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry,
be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

Hymn 2 Dedications

- ◇ In honor of Jean Opie, given by Susan and Ralph Altmaier
- ◇ Given by Craig & Marcia Barnes in honor of Commander Patrick Geraghty
- ◇ In memory of Janice Bosley, Charlene Fronduto, godmothers, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◇ Given by Carl & Diane Francis, in memory of Paul & Jean Francis
- ◇ In memory of Julia, Harry and Harris Johnson, given by Kris Johnson
- ◇ In memory of Ruth, Dick & Shawn Hewson, given by Thomas, Tom and Mattie
- ◇ Given by Barbara Larsen, in honor of Nancy Mills
- ◇ Given by Nancy Mills in loving memory of my mother, Natalie
- ◇ In memory of Mary Longhi & Barbrea Opie, given by Jean & Bill Opie

Hymn #2

In The Garden

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

Refrain: And He walks with me,
and He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share
as we tarry there
None other has ever known

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

Refrain

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling
Refrain

Unison Prayer

Flaming God of Pentecost,

Let us speak in tongues of comfort to those weeping over their loved ones.

Let us speak in tongues of courage to those living in fear.

Let us speak in tongues of condemnation against laws and policies that promote violence.

Let us speak in tongues of care for the most vulnerable in our world.

Let us speak in tongues of love for you and for your people, that Your language might be our language.

**And when our tongues are still, when we have no words to speak,
let our hearts burn with your fire,**

let our ears hear your rushing whoosh,

let our skin feel the wind of your Spirit,

That we may go forth ablaze with your love. Amen.

Hymn 3 Dedications

- ◇ In memory of John & Jennie Bisset, given by Don Bisset
- ◇ Given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone, in memory of Henry Alvarez Maize, friend
- ◇ Given by Nancy Mills in loving memory of my father, Clifford. It was his favorite hymn.
- ◇ In memory of Paul Phelan, given by Rick Mirkin

Hymn #3

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away
stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old Cross
where the dearest & best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

Oh, that old rugged Cross
so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God
left his Glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary Refrain

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged Cross
I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day
to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share Refrain

Reading Scripture: Acts 2:1-6 (interpretation by Andrea Skevington)

From the fields it came: the first sheaf of barley cut for that year's harvest. It was carried high through streets crammed with visitors, and on to the Temple. And then the priest offered it to God, giving thanks for the good land, and for the gift of harvest. For that day was the celebration of the first fruits. It was Pentecost.

Meanwhile, the disciples were all together, waiting. Then, suddenly, it began. It started with sound – a sound like the wind – but this was no gentle harvest breeze. This was a shaking and a roaring: a sound of power, whooshing and howling about the house, rattling every door and shutter. The sound seemed to come down from heaven itself, and filled the house as the wind fills sails. Then, the disciples watched wide-eyed as something that looked like fire came down, and tongues of flame peeled off it and rested on each of them without burning them. All of them were filled, for the Holy Spirit had come. And as it happened, their tongues were loosened, and they began to speak as the Spirit gave them words. These words were not Aramaic, their own language, but in languages that were unknown to them.



Hymn 4 Dedications

- ◇ In memory of Donald Maize, friend, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◇ In honor of A.J., Courtney, Libby & Tommy Offutt, given by Carl & Diane Francis
- ◇ Given by Kris Johnson, in memory of Roberta and Howard Smith
- ◇ Given by Barbara Larsen, in honor of all my grandchildren—John, Katie, Anna, James, Will and Ben
- ◇ In loving memory of my husband, Wayne, given by Nancy Mills
- ◇ In honor of Keith & Rick, given by Grace Reinelt

Hymn #4

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, help me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn

Through the storm, through the
night lead me on to the light
Take my hand, precious Lord
Lead me home

When my way grows drear
Precious Lord, linger near
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand, lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord
Lead me home

Reading

Spirit, Andrea Skevington

How would it feel, then, to live
in that God-shaken house?
To feel the wind,
like the very breath of life,
like the stirring of the deep before time,
gusting through these small daily rooms,
clattering and pressing
against doors and shutters,
not to be contained?

How would it feel to look up, eyes
dried by wind-force,
and see fire falling, flames bright
and crackling, and resting with
heat that does not burn on each
wondrous head?

To be blown open
lock-sprung, lifted,
with wild reckless joy
as words tumble out into
the clear singing light?

It would feel like this,
it feels like this,
and it is still only morning.



The flowers in the sanctuary are given by
Keith Ciccone and Rick Mirkin,
in memory of their parents.



Hymn 5 Dedications

- ◇ In honor of Keith Ciccone, given by Susan and Ralph Altmaier
- ◇ Given by Craig & Marcia Barnes, in memory of Delwyn & Barbara Barnes
- ◇ In honor of Nancy Mills, Justin Ouellet, Ann Moss, Doug & Kim Trudeau, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ◇ Given by Pastor Karen in honor of Lia Jane, Deb McMartin's newborn granddaughter
- ◇ Given by Sally Galvin, in memory of Bob Gallagher
- ◇ In memory and in honor of Ken and Prue Holton, given by Janet & Glenn Holton
- ◇ Given by Rick Mirkin, in honor of Ann Trudeau
- ◇ Given by Jean and Bill Opie, in honor of Will & Elijah
- ◇ Given by Grace Reinelt, in honor of Bill & Jean Opie

Hymn #5

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken	Sweet the rain's new fall	Mine is the sunlight,
Like the first morning,	Sunlit from Heaven,	Mine is the morning,
Blackbird has spoken	Like the first dewfall	Born of the one light
Like the first bird.	On the first grass.	Eden saw play.
Praise for the singing!	Praise for the sweetness	Praise with elation,
Praise for the morning!	Of the wet garden,	Praise every morning,
Praise for them, springing	Sprung in completeness	God's re-creation
Fresh from the Word!	Where his feet pass.	Of the new day!

Scripture

Acts 2:7-17

A crowd had gathered by the house because of the extraordinary sound, but then they heard voices. There were pilgrims in Jerusalem from all over the known world, and they recognized the words the disciples were speaking.

"He's talking Egyptian!" said one.

"That one's talking my language," said a visitor from Crete – and the same was true for all. Each person heard God's praises in their own tongue.

"What can it mean?" they asked each other. But others among the crowd joked that the disciples had been drinking.

The Twelve heard what they were saying, so Simon Peter stood up to speak to the crowds. "Listen, I'll tell you what's happening. We're not drunk! It's too early in the day for that! This is God's promise come true. Do you remember what one of the prophets wrote long ago?

I'll pour out my Spirit on everyone – young and old.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
young men will have visions, and old men dreams.

All who follow me – men and women – will
be given my Spirit, and there will be wonders!

Hymn 6 Dedications

- ◇ Given by Susan and Ralph Altmaier in honor of Glenn Holton
- ◇ Given by Don Bisset in memory of Noreen Bisset and Dorothy McGrory
- ◇ In memory of Cheryl Mirkin Grabowski, sister, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◇ Given by Thomas, Tom & Mattie in memory of Travis Pinn & Loretta McCarthy
- ◇ "Here we are Lord" to all our church members — we need you, given by Barbara Larsen
- ◇ Given by Joan O'Leary in memory of Nancy Lananta
- ◇ In honor of Glenn & Janet, given by Grace Reinelt

*Hymn #6

Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here am I, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? Refrain

Reading

Veni Creator, Czeslaw Milosz

Come, Holy Spirit,
bending or not bending the grasses,
appearing or not above our heads in a tongue of flame,
at hay harvest or when they plough in the orchards or when snow
covers crippled firs in the Sierra Nevada.

I am only a man: I need visible signs.

I tire easily, building the stairway of abstraction.

Many a time I asked, you know it well, that the statue in church
lifts its hand, only once, just once, for me.

But I understand that signs must be human,
therefore call one man, anywhere on earth,
not me—after all I have some decency—
and allow me, when I look at him, to marvel at you.

Hymn 7 Dedications

- ◇ In honor of Pastor Karen, given by Susan and Ralph Altmaier
- ◇ Given by Craig & Marcia Barnes in memory of Norman & Glendolyn Magowan
- ◇ In memory of Louis & Grace Ciccone, parents, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ◇ Given by Janet & Glenn Holton in honor of Grace Reinelt
- ◇ In memory of Helen & Edward MacDonald, given by Thomas, Tom & Mattie
- ◇ Given by Barbara Larsen in memory of my husband, Dana Larsen
- ◇ Given by Rick Mirkin in honor of Lisa Carroll

*Hymn #7

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come: 'tis grace has brought
me safe thus far, and grace will lead me
home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his
word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Scripture

I Corinthians 2:10-13

The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along. Who ever knows what you're thinking and planning except you yourself? The same with God—except that he not only knows what he's thinking, but he lets us in on it. God offers a full report on the gifts of life and salvation that he is giving us. We don't have to rely on the world's guesses and opinions. We didn't learn this by reading books or going to school; we learned it from God, who taught us person-to-person through Jesus, and we're passing it on to you in the same firsthand, personal way.

Hymn 8 Dedications

- ◇ In memory of Frances & Arthur Mirkin, Sr., parents, given by Rick Mirkin & Keith Ciccone
- ◇ Given by Carl & Diane Francis, in memory of Joseph & Helen St. Cyr
- ◇ Given by Sally Galvin, in memory of James Galvin
- ◇ Given by Kris Johnson in memory of my husband, Jim Lynch
- ◇ In memory of Bert Gietman, given by Thomas, Tom and Mattie
- ◇ In honor of Rita Perreira (104 years young), given by Rick Mirkin

*Hymn #8

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;

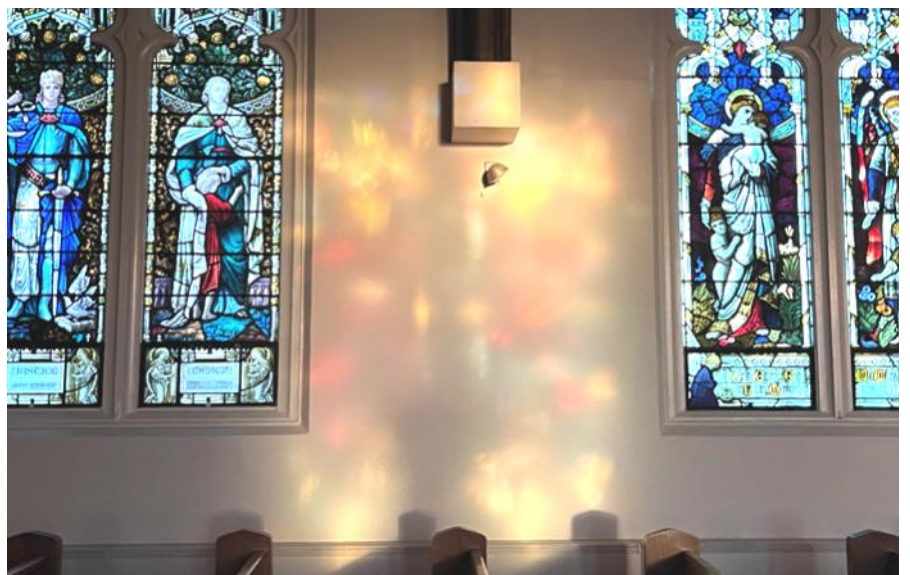
Refrain:

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

When Christ shall come,
with shout of acclamation,
and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
in humble adoration
And there proclaim,
"My God, how great thou art!"
[Refrain]



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 for ever. Amen.

Hymn 9 Dedications

- ◇ Given by Susan and Ralph Altmaier in honor of Opal Yang (granddaughter)
- ◇ In memory of loved ones, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ◇ Given by Martha and Brad Hobbs, in loving memory of our parents, Ruth & William Hobbs
- ◇ Given by Barbara Larsen in honor of all military past & present
- ◇ In honor of our 60th anniversary—June 19th @ FCC, given by Nancy J. Mills
- ◇ Given by Grace Reinelt in honor of Pastor Karen

Hymn #9

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our creator,
Family all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.



Call for the Offering

Offertory

Keith Ciccone & Justin Ouellette

*Prayer of Dedication:

**Sacred breath, Wild Holy Spirit,
as you move through this room,
as you unlock a song within your people,
breathe into us your hopes and dreams
for a world filled with justice, love, and peace.
Bless these gifts to that glorious vision.
Amen.**

Hymn 10 Dedications

- ◇ In honor of First Responders, Doctors & Nurses, given by Keith Ciccone & Rick Mirkin
- ◇ Given by Martha and Brad Hobbs in loving memory of our brother, Walter (Sandy) Hobbs
- ◇ Given by Janet & Glenn Holton in memory of Harold and Priscilla Belcher
- ◇ In honor of Arthur (Bud) Mirkin, given by Rick Mirkin

*Hymn #10

America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their
country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees
beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

*Benediction

Postlude



FIRST CHURCH BRAINTREE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Book Discussion - Tuesday, May 26 @ 7pm on zoom

Council Meeting - Thursday, May 28 @ 10am on zoom (with UBS rep)

Braintree Pride—Sunday, May 31 @ 10-2 in Watson Park


Drive & Drop Food Collection—Wednesday, June 3 @ 5:00-6:30pm in front of the church

Annual Ministry Meeting Sunday, June 7 @ 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Congregational Discussion—Sunday, June 14 @ 10:30am in the Sanctuary

Music Sunday- Sunday, June 21 @ 9:30am

Church Council Meeting—Sunday, June 28 @ 11am in the Chapel



First Congregational Church of Braintree, UCC

Call

Annual Ministry Meeting

In person and online

10:30 A.M., Sunday, June 7, 2026

ARTICLES

- Approve 2025 Annual Ministry Meeting minutes
- Amend the Church Bylaws to reflect the new leadership structure replacing Leadership and Prudential with a Council
- Elect leaders/officers



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!