



"Hagar--In the midst of the whole unseemly affair the Lord, half tipsy with compassion, went around making marvelous promises and loving everybody and creating great nations like the last of the big-time spenders handing out hundred-dollar bills."

~ Frederic Buechner

June 28, 2026

Fifth 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

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.

*Call to Worship c. Heather Moody, re:worship.com

Come, all you whose souls thirst for the living God.

We come in search of help and hope.

Come, you who are acquainted with grief or oppression.

We come bearing our doubts, our wounds, and our fears.

Come, you who are in need of good news.

We come in search of joy, truth, and light.

Come and find refuge in God your rock.

Let us again praise the One who is our help and our hope.

*Hymn 543

Tell it! Tell it Out with Gladness

* Indicates all who are able may stand

Please silence your cell phones

Unison Prayer Charlene Rachuy Cox, St. Olaf College

God of Creation, we are sorry.

Sometimes we do not see others or their needs.

Sometimes cause harm. Sometimes we cause suffering.

Sometimes we look harshly upon those who are different from us.

Sometimes we are the oppressors.

Forgive us.

Forgive us for not seeing others and their needs, for the harm we cause,

for the suffering we impart, for looking harshly upon our siblings, for afflicting pain.

See us, O God, and set us free. Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture

Genesis 21

Romans 6:12-23

*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:

"Two Heirs"

Rev. Karen Gale

*Hymn 547

Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing

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 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 c.Jeff Shrowder, adapt.

**Covenant-keeping God, your promise is rock solid;
we offer our lives and these signs of our daily living
not simply that bread might fill empty stomachs,
but that through the working of your Holy Spirit,
empty lives may be filled,
friendless, lonely lives find intimacy,
depressed lives given hope, and oppressed people find freedom.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*Hymn 487

Built on the Rock

*Benediction

Postlude



First Church Braintree Announcements

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Church Council Meeting TODAY following worship - Sunday, June 28 @ 11 in the Chapel
Drive & Drop Food Pantry Collection – Wednesday, July 1 @ 5 – 6:30pm

The office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in celebration of Independence Day.

Beginning on June 29, 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.

Summer Worship Plan

June 28 - Sanctuary
July 5 - Parlor
July 12 - West Lawn
July 19 - Parlor
July 26 - Parlor
Sundays in August - Parlor
September 6 - Parlor
September 13 - West Lawn (Rally Sunday)



Air-Conditioned Parlor



West Lawn

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.

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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