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November 15, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.

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PRELUDE

*Voluntary in G*

~B. Owens  
Keith Ciccone, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michael Frady

CONGREGATIONAL INROIT *Give Thanks*

Valerie Johnson, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Lift up your eyes, seeking to know your God Attune your spirit to the  
One in whom we dwell.

**God's love surrounds us here today. God calls us to be children  
of light.**

We belong to the day when we have faith. We live confidently in the  
hope of salvation.

**We seek to be faithful to the best we know. We want to invest the  
talents God gives us.**

Faithfulness gives us a sense of greater abundance. Doing justice adds  
to our sense of worth and dignity.

**We are here to build up one another. May our worship encour-  
age each of us today.**

\*HYMN

*The Wise May Bring Their Learning*

\* Indicates all who are able may stand

*Please silence your cell phones*

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Fill us, gracious God, with a sense of your abiding presence. Awaken our spirits to realities unseen. Turn us from the dullness of our fear-filled grasping for security and help us to live and trust in you. Expand among us mutual regard and encouragement as we build up community and grow in the light of your love. This we pray through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*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.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Mattie Gietman

**ANTHEM**

*We Are Called*

~ D. Haas

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 25:14-30

**SERMON**

“Fear, Basic Arithmetic, and the Power of God ”

Pastor Suzy Aja Burba

**MUSIC RESPONSE**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Michael Frady

**HYMN**

*Here I Am Lord*

**OFFERING DEDICATION**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, all creatures, here, below.  
Praise Him, above, ye heav'nly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Gracious God, you bestow us with talents that are far more precious than jewels. Open our eyes to the possibilities you hold for our world. Transform the gifts we offer this day into light and love for the others. Transform our talents into blessings for a world in need. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*All Things Are Yours*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

~ Beethoven



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**FIRST CHURCH BRAINTREE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS (ALL ON ZOOM)**

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**—Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00pm

**LEADERSHIP**—Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00pm

**ANNUAL TURKEY DRIVE**

Once again we will be assisting the Marge Crispin Center with their annual Turkey Drive. We will collect 10-12 pound frozen turkey or monetary donations (Make checks payable to First Congregational. We will cut one check for Marge Crispin Center) The deadline to bring frozen turkeys or make a monetary donation is **Friday, November 20th.**

**YOUTH GROUP**

This Sunday, the First Church Youth Groups will assert their dominance over the fallen leaves on the church lawn. The high school and middle school groups will gather from 1-3pm for raking, probable leaf pile jumping, and a snack of hot cocoa and donuts. We ask that participants come equip with their own rake, their usual dose of energy, a face mask, and a willing spirit to contribute to the beauty of the church. Contact Pastor Suzy for more info [suzy@firstchurchbraintree.com](mailto:suzy@firstchurchbraintree.com)

**HYMN SING** Sunday, December 6th @ 9:30 See attached request form.

**POINSETTIA ORDERS** Due Sunday, December 6th. See attached order form.



**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.



**About Today's Service:** We are live-streaming today's service for those who can not attend in person. We are closely watching the recommendations of the United Church of Christ and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in regards to holding in-person worship service due to the current COVID-19 status in our community. The situation is fluid so please check our webpage to confirm if weekly worship services are in-person or only online.

**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!

**First Congregational Church** is handicapped accessible. Please see an usher if you need assistance with the elevator.

**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.



Rev. Michael Frady, Pastor ❖ [pastormichael@firstchurchbraintree.com](mailto:pastormichael@firstchurchbraintree.com)

Suzy Aja Burba, Youth Minister ❖ [ajaburba@gmail.com](mailto:ajaburba@gmail.com)

Keith Ciccone, Director of Music ❖ [keciccon@aol.com](mailto:keciccon@aol.com)

Mattie Gietman ❖ [mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com](mailto:mattie@firstchurchbraintree.com)

Deb McMartin, Administrator ❖ [office@firstchurchbraintree.com](mailto:office@firstchurchbraintree.com)

Valerie Fink, Bookkeeper ❖ [finance@firstchurchbraintree.com](mailto:finance@firstchurchbraintree.com)



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12 Elm Street, Braintree, MA 02184 ❖ 781-843-3616 ❖ [www.firstchurchbraintree.com](http://www.firstchurchbraintree.com)



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRAINTREE

### CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020 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 your name, 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 return your request form to the church office or place it on the collection plate absolutely no later than **Monday, November 30th.**

#### Choice of Hymns:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>People Look East</i>           | 6. <i>What Child is This?</i>          |
| 2. <i>Like a Child</i>               | 7. <i>Hark, the Herald Angels Sing</i> |
| 3. <i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i>     | 8. <i>Silent Night</i>                 |
| 4. <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> | 9. <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> |
| 5. <i>Away in a Manger</i>           | 10. <i>Joy to the World</i>            |

### CHRISTMAS HYMN SING MEMORIAL REQUEST

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

Given By: (your name) \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn Choice (abbreviated is fine)	Hymn #	In Memory of	In Honor of	In Memory of or In Honor of Whom? (Please print name clearly, exactly as you wish it listed.)	Amount Donated (Suggested amount is \$10 per hymn.)
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$

**Total Hymn Sing Donation:**

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All checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church of Braintree. Please write "Hymn Sing" in the memo. All donations will be split between the deficit reduction fund and to fund music initiatives throughout the year.

Date received

Check #

See the reverse side for the **Poinsettia** order form.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2020

The Beautification Team invites church members to donate poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary on

**Sunday, December 20th & Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th.**

These flowers beautify our sanctuary for Christmas worship and are given as a tribute to memorialize or to honor loved ones. If requested, plants will be delivered to you after the Christmas Eve service.

**All orders must be in by Sunday, December 6th.**

To place an order, please return this form with payment to the church office: 12 Elm Street, Braintree, MA 02184. You can place it in the mail slot (office door is in the corner, near the gas grill by the kitchen entrance) or send it via USPS. (Please make sure it arrives on time as the florist has requested our order no later than 12/7. If you miss the deadline, we can still get a plant for you but only in red.

**We are purchasing our poinsettia plants from Almquist Flowerland.  
Each plant will cost \$12.**



### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER

Please be sure to answer all 6 questions so we can properly acknowledge your gift in the program. Please clearly PRINT the names below exactly as you wish them to appear in the bulletin.

1. Given by: (your name) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Check one: ☐ In Memory of *or* ☐ In Honor of

3. Name (s) of Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Choose color: ☐ Red ☐ White\*\* ☐ Marble \*\*

**\*\*Note: We can not accept any orders for Marble or White Plants after December 6th.  
Any late requests will be Red.**

5. After it is displayed on the altar do you wish your poinsettia to be used as:

☐ A Gift to the Church (for distribution to elderly friends)

or ☐ For Personal Use

☐ I will pick it up (If there is in-person worship on Christmas Eve then you may take it home after the service. Otherwise, please pick it up at the church Monday—Friday, 9:00-1:00.

☐ Please deliver it to me at this address: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Amount due: # of poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church of Braintree*

Questions? Call Deb in the office, Monday - Friday, 9:00-1:00. 781-843-3616.

Date received

Check #

**See the reverse side for the Hymn Sing Request form.**