



Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before the face of all people to be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel

-- Nunc dimittis (Latin: now let us depart)

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday After Christmas

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Keith Ciccone, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you!

Peace be with you!

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living

Sanctuary for You

*Call to Worship c. Tim Graves

We waited.

And imagined a savior.

We imagined power.

One like the world but stronger, and on our side.

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

We imagined the work done for us.

We received a child who teaches us to seek reconciliation and love expansively.

We expected Christmas to be one day and done.

Yet the work of Christmas just started. Let us worship together

*Hymn 125

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Children's Time

Scripture

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise God from heaven, praise God from the mountaintops;
Praise God, all you, God's angels, praise God, all you, God's warriors,
Praise God, sun and moon, and you morning stars;
Praise God, high heaven, praise God, heavenly rain clouds;
Praise, oh let them praise the name of God—
God spoke the word, and there they were!

God set them in place from all time to eternity;
God gave the orders, and that's it!

Praise God from earth, you sea dragons, you fathomless ocean deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and ice, hurricanes obeying God's orders;
Mountains and all hills, apple orchards and cedar forests;
Wild beasts and herds of cattle, snakes, and birds in flight;
Earth's kings and all races, leaders and important people,
Robust men and women in their prime, and yes, graybeards and little children.

Let them praise the name of God— it's the only Name worth praising.
God's radiance exceeds anything in earth and sky; God has built a monument—
God's very own people!
Praise from all who love God! Israel's children, intimate friends of God. Hallelujah!

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped

there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

*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

"Greybeards and Widows"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

*Hymn 137

Once in Royal David's City

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 forever. 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

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

**Jesus, you came into the world, yet the world did not receive You.
You came to Your own, and your own did not welcome you.
Still today, people turn away from your call. We turn away from you.
Sin still scars your creation and the hearts of your people.
We would rather stay in the dark than expose our sin to the light.
Heal our hearts today, Jesus, so that we may welcome you as we long to,
certain that we are also welcomed by You.
Hear us in this time of confession... (silence)....**

Words of Assurance

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Communion Hymn 525

One Bread, One Body

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a call to live in peace and celebrate living together.

We believe that each elder's arms can hold the entirety of the universe as they cradle a child newly arrived.

We believe that we can depart in peace having seen the miracle of "God with us," in a babe born to us, and a savior offering us the bread and cup.

Thanks be to God, this day and always. Amen.

*Hymn 144 As with Gladness, Men of Old

*Benediction

Postlude



First Church Braintree Announcements

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thursday, January 15 @ 10 am- Prudential in office
- Sunday, January 18 @ 11am - Search Team in Chapel
- Tuesday, January 20 @ 7pm - Leadership Team on Zoom
- Thursday, January 22 @ 10 am in the Chapel - Bible Study: Revelation
- Thursday, January 29 @ 10 am in the Chapel - Bible Study
- Sunday, February 1 @ 10:30am - Annual Financial Meeting

TODAY @ Coffee Hour - History Project Part 2

On November 30, the Search & Discernment Team held a Coffee Hour event, "History Project, Part 1," which examined the past several pastorates and what congregation members recalled from those times. It was a good, reflective time that shared information and honestly looked at the challenges and joys of those times. Today we will have part 2 looking further back in history to the long pastorates of Rev. Workman and Rev. Ripley among others. The history review tells us who we are, gathers us together into a shared experience, and helps us frame what we seek as we look to the future.

Note: The office is CLOSED from January 9 - January 19.



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