



It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks.

~ Dina Nayeri

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

As We Gather

As we gather, may Your Spirit work within us.

As we gather, may we glorify Your name.

Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship,

We'll be blessed because we came,

We'll be blessed because we came.

*Call to Worship

We are a community of faith created by the love of God.

We have found strength and hope and love in this place.

We are followers of Jesus, reaching out to a world in need.

We are entrusted with the tasks of binding up the broken hearted and healing the nations.

We gather to tell of God's goodness,

And share the light through our acts of kindness and love toward the "least" of these.

Let us worship in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn 307

We Are Called

Unison Prayer

O God, there are many things that stand between us and the life you intend us to lead.

Like frozen ground, our fears hold us back. We are too timid to speak, or too worried of what we might lose.

Indifference and distraction, like layers of snow and ice, muffle our enthusiasm and sap our strength.

The chilly winds of change drive us back inside to the familiar rather than out into the bracing cold of transformation.

As we worship, thaw us out, God. Warm us with your love. Help us to open ourselves to the Spirit, blustery and brisk, that pushes us along the path of faith-filled living.

Amen.

Children's Time

Scripture (see insert)

Leviticus 19:9-10, 33-34
Deuteronomy 6:10-11 and 10:19;
Psalm 146:8-9
Matthew 25:36-40

*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

"Reading Ruth: Reflecting on Immigration"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

*Hymn (see insert)

This is My Song

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

Everyone is welcome to participate in communion. We have an open table and all are invited. We pass the bread and cups in the pews. We hold each one and take them together once everyone is served. Our cup contains grape juice.

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Words of Institution/Prayer of Consecration

Communion Hymn 524

Let Us Break Bread Together

Prayer of Thanksgiving c. Thom Shuman, Prayers4Today

Steadfast God, we are grateful for this open communion table. We admit that sometimes we are so busy putting up walls between ourselves and others, we cannot see the home you are building for all of us. We spend so much time noting the differences between us and others, while you are embracing everyone as your child and throwing open your doors to the stranger, the foreigner, the alien, in our midst.

**By your grace, help us to envision the household you are building for all people:
there are no plastic protectors on the furniture;
there are no rooms that are off-limits;
and even the humblest and the least is welcome at the table.**

**We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our peace, our hope, our brother,
our Savior. Amen.**

*Hymn 550

All Are Welcome

*Benediction

Postlude



First Church Braintree Announcements

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Sunday, February 1 @ 10:30am - Annual Financial Meeting
- Sunday, February 8 @ 9:30 am in the Sanctuary - Scout Sunday
- Sunday, February 15 @ 11:00am in the Chapel - Combined Leadership & Prudential
- Wednesday, February 18 @ 6pm - Ash Wednesday Service
- Thursday, February 19 @ 7pm - Book Discussion Group
- Thursdays February 5, 12, 19 & 26 @ 10am - Bible Study in the Chapel & on Zoom



Memorial Services:

- Saturday, February 7 @ 10 am - Trudy Stone
- Saturday, March 7 @ 10:30 am - Diana Cassidy
- The memorial service for Valerie Johnson has not been scheduled.



Help Needed! Can you bring some treats to share for our Coffee Hour one Sunday? **Sign up in the Lower Parish Hall!**

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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