



Jesus leaving the 99 to find the one
seems senseless, crazy and useless...
until that one is you.

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth 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

I've Got a Feeling

I've got a feeling, everything is going to be all right O - - -

I've got a feeling, everything is going to be all right, O - - -

I've got a feeling, everything is going to be all right.

Be all right, be all right, be all right.

*Call to Worship --from Psalm 14, Thom Shuman, adapt.

The foolish say, "There is nothing beyond our own selves! We are alone, on our own."

We gather to declare the glory of God in our lives.

The foolish say, "Everything I have is mine; I owe nothing to any one."

We gather to acknowledge that all things are God's and we are mere stewards.

The foolish say, "It is your life; you are accountable to no one."

We gather to follow the One who commands "you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

*Hymn 334

Amazing Grace

* Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cellphones.

Unison Prayer c. Henrietta Stith Andrews, ucc.org

**O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself.
But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you?
How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice?
How often have we tried to step over others even as you stand with them?
How often have we participated in the destruction of your creation?
Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way.
God, we want to be among those whom you seek. Show your mercy upon us.
Find us, and lead us safely home to faithfulness. Amen.**

Children's Time

Scripture

Psalm 14

Bilious and bloated, fools say, "God is gone." Their words are poison gas, fouling the air; they poison rivers and skies; thistles are their cash crop.

God sticks God's head out of heaven. And looks around. God is looking for someone not stupid— one man, even, God-expectant, just one God-ready woman. God comes up empty. A string of zeros. Useless, unshepherded sheep, taking turns pretending to be Shepherd. The ninety-nine follow their fellow.

Don't they know anything, all these predators? Don't they know they can't get away with this—treating people like a fast-food meal over which they're too busy to pray? Night is coming for them, and nightmares, for God takes the side of victims. Do you think you can mess with the dreams of the poor? You can't, for God makes their dreams come true.

Is there anyone around to save Israel? Yes. God is around; God turns life around. Turned-around Jacob skips rope, turned-around Israel sings laughter.

Luke 15: 1-10

By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, "He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends." Their grumbling triggered this story.

"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!' Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

"Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."

*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

"99 vs 1"

Rev. Karen E. Gale

Hymn 325

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

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.

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

**We recognize that the greatest gift is the gift of love.
May our offerings distribute this love to the world:
the small world we inhabit with the suffering people we know;
the larger world where the power of love is sorely needed. Amen.**

*Hymn 5

Praise the Lord, His Glories Show

*Benediction

Postlude



Thank you for joining us at this Service of Worship at
First Congregational Church of Braintree, UCC.

Of all the things you could have done this morning,
we're glad you chose to be with us.



First Church Braintree Announcements

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Sept 16 @ 7pm - Leadership Team (on Zoom)

Thursday, Sept 18 @ 7pm - Book Discussion (on Zoom)

Thursday, Oct 2 @ 10 am - Prudential Team (in the office)



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