



September 13, 2020

Rally Sunday

9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

*All Are Welcome  
Give Thanks*

~ M. Haugen  
~ H. Smith

Keith Ciccone, Organ  
Kiyoshi Hayashi, Violin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michael Frady

INROIT

*Revive Us Again*

*We praise Thee, O God, for the Son of Thy love, for Jesus who died and is now gone above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen.*

*Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again.*

*We praise Thee, O God, for Thy Spirit of light, who hath shown us our Savior, and scattered our night. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**We are a scattered people, gathered again and eager to hear the stories of God's grace.**

We are people of The Book, still being written.

**We are people of the promise, still unfolding.**

We are a pilgrim people, still unfinished.

**We are a grateful people, still speaking God's wonders.**

\*HYMN

*We Gather Together*

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

**Gracious God, renew our minds with the power of your Holy Spirit. Cleanse our souls with the mercy of your grace. Bring us into fellowship with one another and grant us courage to follow where you lead. Protect us from all danger and keep us well, that we may give you praise and serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\* Indicates all who are able may stand*

*Please silence your cell phones*

**\*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**

*Blessing of the Backpacks*

Pastor Suzy Aja Burba

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, 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.**

**ANTHEM**

*Gather Us In*

~ M. Haugen

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Romans 15: 1-7

**SERMON**

**“Expanding our Welcome ”**

Rev. Michael Frady

**MUSIC RESPONSE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Suzy Aja Burba

**PRAYER HYMN**

*Weave*

~ R. Crow

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**\*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, bless these gifts, that they may serve your world with power.  
Bless our lives, that we may serve your world with love.  
Bless each of us, that we may answer your call to lead and serve where we are  
needed most. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

*This is Our Church*

~ R. Williams

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Gavotte en Rondeau*

~ J.S. Bach  
Kiyoshi Hayashi, Violin



### **Return to In-Person Worship**

The time has come for us to return to in-person worship services! This is obviously wonderful news, thank God! However, it is very important that we move forward with extreme caution and strict adherence to COVID safety protocols. For those who are planning to attend in-person worship, there will be a printed list of state and church safety protocols. Some particulars worth mentioning now are:

- Please do not come to church if you are feeling ill, have a cough or fever, nasal congestion or scratchy throat.
- Everyone in attendance is required to wear a face mask. Please bring your own. Disposable masks will be available for those who forget to bring theirs.
- Deacons will escort you to your seats to ensure proper spacing for social distancing. Offertory will not be collected during worship, so please drop your offering in the plate as you pick up your bulletin. Our gifts will be dedicated during the service.
- Special accommodations have been made to safely transport members and guests using the elevator – elevator operators will open the door for you to enter, close the door, and then “call” the elevator to the location you are going.
- There will be no choir or congregational singing during worship at this time. Our soloist, Valerie Johnson, will provide singing for the congregation from a safe distance.
- There will be no coffee hour; members are encouraged to return to their vehicles directly following the worship service.

Additional protocols will be in place, but these are the highlights to be mindful of as we plan our return. Jean Opie and Barbara Larsen will be serving as Safety Protocol Monitors to help ensure that we are all complying with these necessary regulations. Your support and cooperation are most appreciated. We will record names of all attendees for contact tracing purposes. We will be monitoring what is working and making adjustments each week to best ensure the safety and well-being of all.

May God bless us and keep us well!



**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 happy to be back on our church property for in-person worship. We are grateful to Glenn Holton for all the work he has done to allow for live-streaming of today's service for those who can not attend in person.

**Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTaGrBGnYzfM66pS7Bd4PvA>

**Prayer Lists** are available at the back of the sanctuary. Confident in God's amazing grace and divine Spirit, we join our hearts and minds in praying for those in our community and throughout the world who are experiencing joys and struggles of the human journey.

**Non-perishable Food Pantry donations** are collected on the *second Sunday of every month for The Marge Crispin Center/Braintree Food Pantry* and on the *fourth Sunday of every month for Interfaith Social Services*. Collection baskets are located in the Narthex and the Lower Parish Hall.

**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, and BELD Channel 16 on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sunday at 9:00 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 ❖ [suzy@firstchurchbraintree.com](mailto:suzy@firstchurchbraintree.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)



## FIRST CHURCH BRAINTREE ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER



### TODAY IS RALLY SUNDAY!

We are excited to get the church year going again!

### UPCOMING MEETINGS (ALL ON ZOOM)

**LEADERSHIP**—Tuesday, Sept 15 @ 7:00pm

**PRUDENTIAL TEAM** - Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00pm

**WORSHIP MINISTRY**—Tuesday, October 13 Time TBD

[The September-October 2020 Issue of \*The Upper Room\* is now available.](#)

Call Deb in the office (781-843-3616) to request your copy.



We are excited to announce the return of in-person youth group.

This Sunday the middle school and high school youth groups will meet on the side lawn from 1:30 to 3pm for socially distant relay races. In the event of rain, we will gather in Upper Parish Hall (this allows for maintaining social distancing). In the weeks that follow, the two groups will meet at separate times.

We look forward to reconnecting with the kids and inviting new members.



## Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*

Super Saturday is Going Virtual!

October 24, 2020 and October 31, 2020

Anyone interested in attending the Virtual Super Saturday should see Pastor Michael. Super Saturday is two days of worship, workshops and networking - October 24, 2020 and October 31, 2020. Sign up for one day or two, two workshops or four. It's up to you! All are welcome!