



As a historian, I've spent much of my career warning people about the dangers of nostalgia.

~ Stephanie Coontz

October 18, 2026

Twenty-First 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

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 --based on Psalm 105, MinistryMatters.org

Liberating God, we seek your journey.

With parted waters, set us free.

With cloud and fire, guide us.

With gushing waters, quench our thirst.

With food from heaven, feed us.

Draw us out with prayer and singing, that we might know your ways. Amen.

*Hymn 41

To God Be the Glory

Unison Prayer c.Thom Shuman, adapt.

It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory.

We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs.

We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not want to walk with him on paths of the uncomfortable and unknown.

**We believe that the gospel can transform lives,
(at least, for those who need it - not us).**

Forgive us, O Pillar of Flame.

Instead of looking for the world to meet our desires,

may we bring your message and love out to others in a new way.

Instead of nostalgia and seeking answers from our Egypts of the past,

may we look to the needs of this moment, and the new thing you are doing in our midst.

May we lay down all that pulls us to the past that we might embrace Your work and blessings happening in the now. Amen.

** Indicates all who are able may stand.*

Please silence your cell phones.

A Time for All Ages

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon the Name of God;
make known the LORD'S deeds among the peoples.

Sing to the LORD, sing praises to the LORD, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

Glory in the holy Name of God; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Search for the LORD and the strength of the LORD; continually seek God's face.
Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments God has spoken,

O offspring of Abraham, servant of the LORD, O children of Jacob, God's chosen.
You led out your people with silver and gold; in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going, because they were afraid of them.

You spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light in the night season.
They asked, and quails appeared, and you satisfied them with bread from heaven.
You opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.

For you remembered your holy word and Abraham your servant.

So you led forth your people with gladness, your chosen with shouts of joy.

You gave your people the lands of the nations, and they took the fruit of others' toil
That they might keep your statutes and observe your laws. Hallelujah!

Exodus 16:1-20

The whole company of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The Israelites said, "Why didn't God let us die in comfort in Egypt where we had lamb stew and all the bread we could eat? You've brought us out into this wilderness to starve us to death, the whole company of Israel!"

God said to Moses, "I'm going to rain bread down from the skies for you. The people will go out and gather each day's ration. I'm going to test them to see if they'll live according to my Teaching or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they have gathered, it will turn out to be twice as much as their daily ration."

Moses and Aaron told the People of Israel, "This evening you will know that it is God who brought you out of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the Glory of God. Yes, he's listened to your complaints against him. You haven't been complaining against us, you know, but against God. Since it will be God who gives you meat for your meal in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, it's God who will have listened to your complaints against him. Who are we in all this? You haven't been complaining to us—you've been complaining to God!"

Moses instructed Aaron: "Tell the whole company of Israel: 'Come near to God. God has heard your complaints.'" They gathered and they turned to face the

wilderness. And there it was: the Glory of God visible in the Cloud. God spoke to Moses, “I’ve listened to the complaints of the Israelites. Now tell them: ‘At dusk you will eat meat and at dawn you’ll eat your fill of bread; and you’ll realize that I am God, your God.’”

That evening quail flew in and covered the camp and in the morning there was a layer of dew all over the camp. When the layer of dew had lifted, there on the wilderness ground was a fine flaky something, fine as frost on the ground. The Israelites took one look and said to one another, man-hu (What is it?). They had no idea what it was.

So Moses told them, “It’s the bread God has given you to eat. And these are God’s instructions: ‘Gather enough for each person, about two quarts per person; gather enough for everyone in your tent.’”

The People of Israel went to work and started gathering, some more, some less, but when they measured out what they had gathered, those who gathered more had no extra and those who gathered less weren’t short—each person had gathered as much as was needed. Moses said to them, “Don’t leave any of it until morning.”

But they didn’t listen to Moses. A few of the men kept back some of it until morning. It got wormy and smelled bad. And Moses lost his temper with them.

*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

"Nostalgia"

*Hymn 163

Lord of the Dance

Prayer 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

**With thanks to God from whom all gifts flow
With thanks for those who came before us and the gifts they gave
With thanks for those right now and the gifts they give
With thanks for those to come and gifts they will bring
That all might serve Christ and his ministry of love and hope. Amen.**

*Hymn 456

God of Grace and God of Glory

*Benediction

Postlude



Thank you to today's Deacon: Denise Keaney
And to our Coffee Hour Host: Barbara Larsen

First Church Braintree Announcements

Church Council Meeting – Sunday, October 18 @ 11am in the Chapel

Congregational Listening Session - Sunday, October 25 following worship

Book Discussion – Thursday, October 29, 2026 @ 7pm on Zoom



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