



Messiness is a sign of life - it means we are fully engaging with the world around us.

~ Unknown

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth 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

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.

*Call to Worship c. Alan Gaunt, adapt.

This is the place and this is the time:

Here and now God waits to break into our experience:

To fill us with hope, joy, and faith for the future.

To make us see the world and the whole of life in a new light.

This is the place and this is the time,

As are all places, as are all times.

To be made new by our living, resurrecting God.

Let us worship and praise the God of new things.

*Hymn 267

Morning Has Broken

Unison Prayer

God of our journeys,

Grant us the grace to accept transition. Right now, our hearts hold onto what was, and letting go feels heavy. And yet, you are our solid ground when everything around us shifts. Help us to trust your wisdom and to find peace in the spaces where we do not yet have answers. Give us courage for the unknown, patience in the waiting, and a quiet confidence that you are here with us every step of the way. Amen.

*Indicates all who are able may stand.

Please silence your cell phones.

A Word for All Ages

Scripture: Isaiah 65: 17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity,
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

*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

"Messy Metamorphosis"

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Musical Reflection

Hymn of Promise

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.

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 c. Thom Shuman

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to
pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need
of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.**

*Hymn 502

Forward Through the Ages

*Benediction

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Postlude



Rev. Chris Mereschuk (he/him) is the Director for Legacy & Church Redevelopment for the Continuing Covenant Collaborative — a new program of the Southern New England Conference UCC. Chris's work supports churches through "faithful endings and inspired beginnings" such as Legacy, congregational unions, redevelopment, and new forms of ministry. Read more about this work by visiting sneucc.org/collaborative

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

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.

First Church Braintree Announcements

Upcoming Meetings:

Book Discussion - Thursday, Sept 24 @ 7pm on Zoom
Church Council Meeting - Sunday, Sept 27 @ 11am in the Chapel



SSCYC, Inc.
A Vacation with a Purpose

4th Annual SSCYC Golf Tournament & Silent Auction Dinner

All proceeds benefit our Youth Group Camp program!

Friday, October 2nd – Rockland Golf Course

1pm - Golf Tournament Shot-gun Start
5:30pm - Dinner and Silent Auction

Sign-Up TODAY at www.sscyc.org/events



Ways to Participate

- ★ Play Golf
- ★ Attend Silent Auction Dinner
- ★ Sponsorships
- ★ Donate an Auction Item

Donation Ideas

- ★ Gift Cards
- ★ Gift Baskets
- ★ Tickets to events, sports, shows
- ★ Scratch Tickets
- ★ Bottles of Alcohol



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