



April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia.

*Call to Worship

We call upon the name of the Holy One who hears our cry and responds to our prayer.

We will call upon the name of the Holy One for as long as we live.

The Holy One has been our Companion in suffering and our Comforter in anguish.

What shall we return to the Holy One for their presence among us

**We will serve the Holy One and be companions and comforters for
God's People.**

The Holy One has given us a new covenant of salvation, redemption, and restoration for the world. What shall we return to the Holy One for the gift of covenantal love?

**We will declare the goodness of God with praise and thanksgiving.
Hallelujah! Bless the name of the Holy One!**

*Hymn 206

He Lives

** Indicates all who are able may stand.*

Please silence your cell phones.

Unison Prayer

Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds so that we may recognize you in unexpected moments, in unexpected places, in unexpected encounters. Let us encounter you as we move through the lives you have given us. Let us encounter you in every phase of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. Amen

Scripture

Acts 2: 36-41

³⁶ “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.”⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. want to go.” He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, “Follow me.”

Luke 24: 13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*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

"Is That Who I think It Is?"

Rev. Deborah Spratley

Hymn 205

In the Garden

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.

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

*Hymn 201

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

*Benediction

Postlude

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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. We are live-streaming today's service. Playback is available on our YouTube channel:

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



I grew up in Braintree and attended and served in FCC Braintree during the heyday of the church - think the 50's through the 80's. I may be familiar to a few of your senior members. I spent 25 years as a teacher in an alternative high school and had a late call to ministry. My MDiv is from Andover Newton Theological School. I have served on staff at UCC Norwell an associate pastor. My last ministry (12 years) was served as the Protestant Pastoral Associate at Linden Ponds, a large retirement community in Hingham. That ministry was a missional outreach of UCC Norwell to Linden Ponds as a "sister church" endeavor. I feel blessed to be returning to where God first spoke to my heart, as it feels my ministry has come full circle.

Blessings, Rev. Deb Spratley

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.



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