

## First Baptist Church in Needham

Meditations for Sunday, March 29, 2020 (or whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Edition 2



### Lighting the Candle of Life

*(You may wish to light a candle or use the photo of our Candle of Life as a focus.)*

**All:** We light the Candle of Life — a candle that represents community, spirit, and the fullness of all of life — birth and death and all of the transitions in between and beyond.



### A Reading from Psalm 130

*(Read the psalm aloud. Pause and notice what image or word stands out or “shimmers” as you tell the story of this encounter aloud.)*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!

<sup>3</sup> If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

<sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.

<sup>8</sup> It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

**All:** The word of our Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Time of Reflection

*(Choose one or more of the following notes to reflect upon the scripture text. Perhaps write your thoughts, call a friend or family member to discuss it, or allow the story to seep into your imagination.)*

- What image, word, or phrase stood out or “shimmered” to me? Reflect on its significance today. Consider holding the image or phrase as a focus of prayer this week.
- Our Lenten journey has brought us into a season of waiting and watching in ways we could not have fully anticipated. How may the requirements to shelter in place, self-quarantine, and maintain physical distance offer new insights into how I wait and watch for the Lord?
- The psalm calls us to “hope in the Lord”. How am I living into the call to “hope in the Lord”? What about my anxiety, fear, or despair? Can I be both afraid and hopeful simultaneously? What action can I take this week to embody hope?

## Hymn 500

## *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

PRECIOUS LORD

*(You may choose to sing or recite the words to this beloved hymn by Tommy Dorsey. Or, listen to Mahalia Jackson sing it online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMQkmnqJjSE> )*

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone;  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.



When the darkness appears  
and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand, guide my feet,  
hold my hand:  
take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

## Prayers of the People

*(If you have been attending Sunday worship, you know our sung prayer that brings us into the time of Prayers of the People. Enter into this time in song. If you don't know the tune, let the words be the doorway to your prayer.)*

### Sung Prayer

### Hear My Prayer, O Lord

BENZENHAFER  
arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Hear my prayer, O Lord.  
I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

### Prayerful Meditation

“Without opening your door,  
You can open your heart to the world.”  
–Tao Te Ching 47

### We Hold in Prayer...

*(Many of this week's prayers are requests from members of our congregation in the past week. If you have general or specific prayer requests—joys as well as concerns—to share please contact Pastor Holly or Pastor Daryn to pass them along.)*

As a community of faith gathered in Spirit when we cannot be in person, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer where we are, as we are, entrusting the Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...

For Barbara Arnold, Marilyn Blake, Bruce Wile, and beloved folk living in assisted living communities that currently have disrupted routines, very limited access to visits and contact with the outside world. For their safekeeping, forbearance, and health and the wellbeing and dedicated effort of the staffs who serve alongside them... and souls we know personally who are in these groups whose names we speak aloud... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

For persons living within isolation and loneliness, who do not have access to internet or extended family, and who are finding these daily societal changes destabilizing and further distancing. With Anthony Calilung and Nancy Twombly, we pray for persons experiencing heightened anxiety from endless and contradicting news reporting and upended patterns of work and home life...and for souls we know personally who are in these groups whose names we speak aloud... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Marilyn Blake and Anthony Calilung, we pray for souls who are facing unemployment and the fearful uncertainties of the near future. With Andrew Thoresen, we pray for persons tasked with the painful work of laying off and firing employees and colleagues that businesses cannot currently sustain... and for souls we know personally who are in these groups whose names we speak aloud... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...*



With Harry Chin, Marty Fassett, and Anne Wile, we offer thanks for families, neighbors, and friends who are reaching out and caring for one another, preparing meals, sending notes, calling, and ensuring needs are met...and for souls we know personally who are in these groups whose names we speak aloud... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

With Marty Fassett, we pray for persons who are unable to find adequate housewares and food at groceries and for the essential businesses endeavoring to keep the public supplied while ensuring everyone has according to their need. For the continued health and safekeeping of employees who continue to put themselves at risk, to interact face-to-face with the public, and provide essential services...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Jim Fuller, we offer thanks for the comfort and guidance of scripture in such a time as this, especially Psalm 91, and hold to God's promise to be our shelter and refuge. And with Louise Mason, we give thanks for prayers shared over the phone...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Nancy Twombly and Pastor Holly, we hold persons who have shifted from going to work and school to doing so online and from home. For continued flexibility, stable internet connections, good humor, and a humane level of expectation of what can be done and when...and for souls – individuals, families, and roommates – who are in this group whose names we speak aloud...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Pastor Holly, we celebrate her son-in-law, Greylyn Hydinger's doctoral prospectus being approved which allows him to officially write his dissertation...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.* And for all persons committed to working in research and on projects that require ongoing attention, focus, and dedication regardless of new requirements and restrictions...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Pastor Daryn, we offer thanks for unplanned space to slow down, reflect on the goodness of people, and cherish time with family...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

For the beauty of nature that continues to move us toward spring with no regard of virus or social upheaval...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

And for the prayers of our hearts that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them... *Hear my prayer, O Lord.*



## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## Offering

*(Online giving may be available by this Sunday on our website! Check <https://www.fbcneedham.org> for a Paypal donation link. You may also continue to support the ongoing ministry of the church by sending a check to the church office via mail to: First Baptist Church in Needham, 858 Great Plain Avenue, Needham MA 02492. Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check.)*

## Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

## Benediction

*(Speak these words of benediction knowing that you are part of a loving community of faith. If you lit a candle at the beginning, you may wish to blow it out now.)*

One: Our blessing to one another is that we are here for one another, that we are with one another, that we celebrate and remember one another along the journey.

**ALL: We extinguish the Candle of Life, but the Light continues to shine within us. As we pass the peace we carry the Light of the Candle of Life from this hour into this world and beyond, offering peace, hope and light wherever the journey leads.**

## Passing of the Peace

*(Picture in your mind's eye the faces of beloved souls with whom you would share the peace of Christ in person if you could, and offer each one your blessing of peace.)*

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another in peace as we prepare for the journey ahead.

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## Announcements

**The Church Office is currently closed through April 7.** Pastoral and office staff are working from home. Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly. If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.

**Needham Interfaith Clergy Association** is offering a weekly collection of online meditations from our different traditions. Both Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly are contributing. You can access the first episode on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVt625Xtolc> or on their Facebook page where you can Like and Follow them for regular updates.

**Livestreaming Services:** Many congregations are offering their services online both in real time or recorded to watch or listen as you are able. Here are a two to start:

**Boston University's Marsh Chapel** – Available live on Sundays 11:00-noon on WBUR (90.9 FM radio or on online at <https://www.wbur.org/> and then click “Listen Live”). Recorded services are available as a podcast on iTunes or other RSS feeders (search: Marsh Chapel).

**Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, MS** – Available livestreaming online on Sundays 11:30-12:30 Eastern at <https://www.northminsterbaptist.live> . Prior recorded services are at <https://www.northminsterbaptist.live/on-demand> and then click on “Playlist” to select a date.

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