

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue, Needham MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

Meditations for Sunday, June 7, 2020

*(or whenever you are so led to pause, reflect,
and pray)*

Trinity Sunday

Edition 12

Lighting the Candle of Life

*You may wish to light a candle or use the candle
photo 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.



Praying the Call to Worship

We light a light
in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Saviour who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life....
In the silence of our hearts or in spoken words
Let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and pray for the life of the world...
That hope is deeper than despair
and that creativity surges from unknown depths within us,
Thanks be to you, O God.
In the world this day
and in the relationships of men and women everywhere
let there be new stirrings of your liberating Spirit.
In the world this day and in the depths of our own souls
let there be new stirrings of your mighty liberating Spirit.
--Rev. John Phillip Newell¹

¹ John Phillip Newell, *Celtic Treasures: Daily Scriptures and Prayers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2005), 90, 94.



The son of a Baptist minister, Rev. Carl Daw (b. 1944) is an Episcopal priest who served as the Executive Director of the American Hymn Society from 1996-2009 and as Adjunct Professor of Hymnology and Curator of the Hymnological Collection at Boston University School of Theology until his retirement in 2019. Carl's many hymns are celebrated for their ability to span across theological lines and languages as evidenced by their inclusion in a wide variety of current denominational and ecumenical hymnals in English, Spanish, German, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.²

*On this Trinity Sunday, pause with this opening hymn to reflect on the wide and diverse ways in which we conceive of the Holy One as Spirit, Christ, and Creator. Consider how these descriptions enable us to creatively live into being Imago Dei (in the Image of God) in each encounter, each day, and each night. Read aloud or sing these words to the **same tune as "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,"** or sing along with a chromatic autoharp accompaniment played by Anthony Archibald of Port St. Mary, Isle of Man, UK, online: <https://youtu.be/S-MdxWnpQ1k> ³.*

God the Spirit, guide and guardian,
wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets,
sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people
fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles
to your church in every place.

Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,
Word made flesh, Love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant,
friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all pastors
learn and live a shepherd's care;
grant them courage and compassion
shown through word and deed and prayer.

Great Creator, life-bestower,
truth beyond all thought's recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy,
giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness,
so may those the church exalts
oversee its life steadfastly,
yet not overlook its faults.

Triune God, mysterious being,
undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom,
greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings
your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting
may give glory to your name.

² <http://www.bu.edu/sth/profile/41019/>

³ Anthony Archibald goes by the online moniker "Threelegsoman." He does not read music but plays autoharp and guitar by ear and has uploaded over 3000 songs to YouTube, some instrumental and some where he plays and sings. His book of simple chords, *50 Songs From the Threelegsoman Collection, Volume 1* is available where e-books are sold. Learn more about Threelegsoman at <https://www.youtube.com/user/threelegsoman/featured>.

A Reading from Genesis 1:1-2:4a (NRSV)

Read the text aloud. Pause and notice what image or phrase stands out or "shimmers" as you tell the story. In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And



God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God they were created; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that was made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

ALL: The word of our Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 461

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

This prayerful hymn is our initial Pentecost response to reading aloud and hearing the word of God in worship. In the time of COVID19 and in light of the cries of George Floyd last week, African-Americans, and protesters in recent years of, "I can't breathe!" we claim the Spirit's life-giving breath as that which sustains and enables us to hear the sacred Word and live into it until all souls are returned to health, safe, respected, and drawn into community. Sing or read it aloud as your prayerful response to the above text, or allow the quartet of voices from St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX, wash over you online at

https://youtu.be/3qV_IHByYBk.⁴

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you
love,
and do what you would do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with yours,
to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with you the perfect life
for all eternity.

⁴ <https://www.smumc.org/>

The Holy One Speaks and Tends ...

The first of the two Creation accounts at the beginning of Genesis draws us to imaginatively remember ancient gatherings scattered around our globe where our ancestors faces, colored by firelight, turned toward the shaman, the wise-one, the story-teller, or itinerant bard to hear the telling of how life emerged from No-Thing-ness. Every human culture carries within it ancient stories of creation—how all matter and life came into being. These stories weave through every people's history and frame how we value, perceive, and interact with the world and life at fundamental levels. As Christians, we turn to the ancient Hebrew people's epic poetry and find ourselves captivated with an Uncreated Deity that desires to express—to speak into being—creatively and progressively all that we know of a physical universe.



- *Notice the word God uses to bring existence into being each day: Let. The poem indicates that the Holy Creator discerns thoughtfully and allows existence to come forth from God's own imagining vision. Light has elemental being. Water and atmosphere have being. The earth and all that grows and lives upon it have being. The Creation 1 poem notes the Holy Creator lets, allows, and welcomes them into existence. Think of it: you were welcomed into existence—imagined, longed for, and let loose into being. As we continue to live within the constraints of COVID19 this week, how may I celebrate knowing the Creator breathes life into me? That I am part of an ongoing sacred act of creation?*
- *The Holy Creator pauses each day to assess and reflect before pronouncing the effort of the day to be good, or very good in the Creation 1 poem. Bearing witness to the public outcry over the murder of George Floyd and centuries of systemic racism in our country, communities, and lives, how may I endeavor this week to live, speak, and act in such a way that strangers might look back on each day and consider our encounter good, or very good?*

Hymn 628

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

YE BANKS AND BRAES

John Bell (b.1949) was born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland. A minister in the Church of Scotland, he served as a youth pastor before joining the Iona Community. There, his collaborations with Graham Maule expanded beyond youth ministry to church renewal, especially through new forms of church music and hymnody that is singable for congregations, contextually relevant to current social conditions, and remains deeply theologically and scripturally grounded. His work through Iona's Wild Goose Resource Group has promoted church renewal through his numerous hymns and songbooks, international workshops, and editorial work. The Scottish tune for this song may be unfamiliar, so consider reading the text slowly and let the images draw your memory to instances when you have experienced what is described, or sing along with St. Alban's Church, Bristol, England, online at: <https://youtu.be/exr0oxZwZKA>.⁵

We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind, and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain,
and make your broken people whole.

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

BENZENHAFFER
arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

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

Prayerful Meditation

"I have heard it said that 'Prayer is not an art. It is a cry.' I liked that thought for a while, especially when I thought that form was a form of constriction, that the breath of prayer needed to be free. But breath has form. In fact, breath *is* form, the fundamental rhythm by which we live, and breathe and have our being. God's breath is over the chaotic waters, we read. Our breath is in the chaotic body and, we hope, might have a touch of the holy about it too.

"Breath, like prayer, is a cry. Breath, like prayer, can also be an art. Prayer is a small fire lit to keep cold hands warm. Prayer is a practice that flourishes both with faith and doubt.

⁵ The Hymn Channel, BBC (2016).

Prayer is asking, and prayer is sitting. Prayer is the breath. Prayer is not an answer, always, because not all questions can be answered. Prayer can be a rhythm that helps us make sense in times of senselessness, not offering solutions, but speaking to and from the mystery of humanity.”

--Pádraig Ó Tuama⁶

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 Holly or 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...

Our Holy Creator, in the almost two weeks since **George Floyd's** murder in police custody, we have borne witness to the grief and pain, anguish and generation trauma wrought upon African American souls through his violent death and in the strands of racism and white supremacy woven within the fabric of our nation. As you gather to your eternal embrace Mr. Floyd, **Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor**, and innumerable souls violently taken too soon whose names are known and unknown to us, we hold their families and friends to your Spirit's care in their grief.

We lift, too, all people of color who send children into the world and leave home themselves under the weight of daily concern, anxiety, and fear that they will not return. We especially pray for **Chris Cooper** and all African American men and boys who live under the burden and vulnerability of being seen as someone to fear no matter how they present themselves each day. Convict us, Creator Spirit, of the violent bent of our country and our acceptance of it as inevitable. Swipe down our defenses and excuses and require of us real, beneficial, and transformative change. In our shock and concern, open us to listen carefully and compassionately to the testimonies of injustice, inequity, and daily othering persons of color know as everyday existence. Breach our defensiveness and helpless frustration so that we may endeavor to begin or continue the hard work of recognizing how much harm existed within our communities, congregations, and relationships without our seeing or acting on it...or even moreso, that we knew was present and allowed to take root and grow.

Creator Christ, remind we who are white folk that claiming to be “good people” does not ensure people of color may also enjoy the privilege of being considered inherently good, too. Whether we have been naïve, uninformed, in denial, or knew but chose to ignore the full pain of racism, racial prejudice and profiling, and racial discrimination, remind us, O Christ, that the fabric of our world is torn and your light reveals the truth around us. Open us to repentance...to listen and learn...to make amends...and to endeavor to embody transformative change in our

⁶ Pádraig Ó Tuama, *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community*, (London, UK: Canterbury Press Norwich, 2017).

circles of relationship and influence—but first within ourselves—day by day going forward...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

As we approach 2,000,000 cases of COVID19 and 110,000 deaths within the United States this week—almost a third of all cases reported world-wide, we hold to your boundless mercy, Holy Creator, a world whose grief is spreading like wildfire and flood and pandemic, itself. The weather warms and we ache to be out and about our lives. So many of us have not been directly touched by this virus yet, and we chafe at masks, physical distancing, and denial of access. Help us, O Christ, to hear the anguish of our neighbors, colleagues, and strangers who continue to work on the front lines, who have or are living with COVID19 now, and who grieve the terrible loss of beloved family and friends. As the weeks continue, keep us sensitive and attuned to the simple acts that protect each person we encounter from contracting from us this insidious virus that does not reveal itself at first, if at all. For the lives lost to COVID19 and its impactful trauma, especially **Rev. Jessica Chicka's grandfather**, and souls now released from their suffering of this pandemic into your Spirit's living breath who we now name...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With Pastor Holly, we also hold to God's tender compassion the family, friends, and former students of her high school English teacher, **Hazel Greene** and give thanks for the decades of dedication to teaching and guiding students she provided with great care and good humor. We also hold Holly's friends in Mississippi to Spirit's abiding presence, **Alfalene Vardaman, Harry Vickery, and Mary Hendrick** and give thanks for long lives well-lived and loved as we lift their families to your tender care. We also remember Gretchen's friend, **Stevie Lynn Stock**, who died from brain cancer, and lift her parents and family to Christ's deep consolation. For these dear souls and all persons who have entered God's nearer presence since last we entered prayer together, souls who grieve this day... and for souls whose names we speak aloud...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With Stan, Bev, Andrew, and Louise, we offer thanksgiving for family and friends who remain untouched or asymptomatic by COVID19. We pray for clear discernment as to when and how to safely loosen quarantine practices, when and how to maintain them, and for grace when encountering people who differ in their approach. We pray for a continued goodness, kindness, and civility to prevail among people as we navigate these uncertain times. We also are aware with more places opening and numerous marches, peace rallies, vigils, and demonstrations that the likelihood of the virus spreading and spiking cases is greater now. And so we ask for your presence with us, Holy Creator, in our concern, fear, anxieties, and potential illness...and that you be with souls we now name who are living with the virus...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With Ernie, Marty, Pastor Daryn, and Pastor Holly, we hold persons living with non-COVID19 illness and injury requiring hospitalization or treatment. We hold **Ernie** to your Spirit's watch-care as he is going in for tests and ask your enduring presence grant him peace in the process. We continue to hold Daryn's cousin, **Draegen** to Christ's healing as he recovers from surgery at

home. We also continue to pray for Holly's Aunt **Deb Benzenhafer**, in Wartburg, TN, as she prepares for stomach cancer surgery June 9, and for Holly's parents, **Emily** and **David** as they travel to Nashville to be with his brother **Tom** during Deb's surgery. In the midst of suffering and unknowing, life changes and beloved presence, we gather these souls before you, Holy Spirit, and now speak the names of persons likewise confronting serious medical conditions...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With the turning to June, we cherish the delight and joy of birthdays, especially **Anna Stylianopoulos** who turned 14 on June 1, **Nancy Twombly**, celebrating on **June 2**, and **Harry Chin**, who turned 87 on June 3 and celebrated with his children and his sister-in-law, Nelly Wong. For the blessing of each of your lives among us and the turning to a new year of life...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

With Barbara, we hold persons in assisted living, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers who are unable to get outside and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. We pray for their continued stamina, good humor, resilience in facing long hours alone, and continued health and well-being despite the isolation. For these dear souls...and for those souls whose names we speak aloud...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With Harry and Ernie, we give thanks for the Worship Resource and the ways it allows us to enter into worshipful community despite being distanced. For songs old and beloved and new and unfamiliar, for prayers we share together, for questions to hold throughout each week and scripture to guide us...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

With Bev, we lift up individuals living alone during COVID19. For their mental and physical wellbeing, having sole responsibility to take care of everything on their own, concerns about getting sick, the weight of being alone and isolated that burdens many souls unused to such alienation, and for souls living alone who we now name...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*



With Louise, we hold our country, in all its complexity and concerns, hope and possibility to Christ's healing and Spirit's moving...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With Marty, we give thanks for homes that offer us comfort as well as shelter and space to be safe during COVID19. ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

With Louise and Bev, we are grateful for the simple gift of a phone call to keep us connected and remind us we are cherished and loved ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

With Liz, we offer gratitude for technology that allows us to remain connected to loved ones, especially social platforms that allowed her to virtually attend her Aunt's funeral. We also acknowledge and give thanks for online services that prevent fraud and theft and help to ensure wellbeing for these benefits and the many ways in which our technologies and internet benefit our daily lives and have made sheltering at home more bearable and sustainable...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

With Andrew, Bev, and Ernie, we are grateful for daily practices of walking outside, gardening, getting coffee, the beauty of lilacs and roses, and haircuts...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

With Louise, Andrew, and Pastor Holly, we offer deep gratitude for the souls who are First Baptist Church in Needham and speak their names in thanksgiving...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

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.

Holy Spirit, Living Word...

This first Genesis Creation story positions God as No-Thing, which means God exists before anything, or is uncreated because all "things" are formed, or created, by God. Thus, one name for God is Nothing, or No-Thing. Humanity, singled out to be created in God's image, then, is in the image of divine nothingness. Imagine God peering into a cosmic mirror intent on forming a self-portrait, a sculpture of No-Thing-ness, and then bending to breathe life into each one of us before declaring with deep assurance and satisfaction, "Very good."

- *Being in the image of Divine No-Thing-ness, grants a different perspective to the wondrous diversity of humanity. It frees us from the boundaries we humanly deem to be significant — skin tone, ethnic group, biological sex and gender expression, sexual-orientation, language, intelligence, skills, family, education level, wealth, status, and disablement, to name a few — these boundaries become insignificant, useless, in the face of the Holy Creator who fashions us all. Now, we may be able to begin truly perceiving difference in people as aspects of God to be celebrated rather than relying on our own familiarity as a measure of who is worthy and acceptable and who is not. How may I receive and/or wrestle with this image of God as No-Thing-ness from whom all humanity is formed and declared, “Very good?”*
- *Am I willing to hear the Holy Creator call me, “very good”? The Genesis Creation 1 account makes humanity responsible for the well-being, safety, and flourishing of the rest of the created order. How well are we doing? In what ways this week may I contribute in benefit and blessing to both the care and nurture of the human community around me and also to the natural world of which we are inextricably linked?*

Responsive Hymn 571 *Christ, You Call Us All to Service*

IN BABILONE

Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931) is a Presbyterian Elder (PCUSA) and hymnist serving in Wausau, Wisconsin. A Fulbright scholar, she taught college-level French and worked for the Social Security Administration while serving her denomination on the local, state, and national levels. Her hymns focus on concerns of justice, peace, and care of the environment. In this hymn, Patterson turns to Christ’s command that we approach each day in service to our world as his own Body—and that doing so is inherently an action of reconciliation, healing, dignifying, and transformation. As you read aloud or sing these words, consider what action you may take this week to bring about justice, healing, and transformational vision within the reach of your influence and relationships. You may wish to sing along for two verses with acoustic guitar accompaniment by Brad Sondahl online at: <https://youtu.be/0uIqsLPP4zM>.⁷

Christ, you call us all to service,
call us all to follow you;
plant in us a deep commitment
all your work and will to do.
Fire a passion for your justice,
in us kindle love and peace;
help us heal the brokenhearted,
to the captive bring release.

Teach us how to work together,
brothers, sisters, side by side,
equal partners in the struggle,
in the cause of truth allied.

To each one some gift is given,
man or woman, young or old;
help us use each skill and talent
your great purpose to unfold.

Let us be a servant people,
reconciling, ending strife,
seeking ways more just of sharing
and of ordering human life.
Fill us with a glowing vision
of the world as it should be;
send us forth to change that vision
into blest reality.

⁷ Brad Sondahl is a musician, artist, poet, and potter from Spirit Lake, Idaho. <http://sondahl.com/>

Offering

For online giving, go to <https://www.fbcneedham.org> or 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

While the Church Office and Building are currently closed, our ministry continues!

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.

Do You Need Washable Masks? Be Kind Needham Masks for Seniors is a local organization making washable fabric masks available to local senior residents *for free*. Your health and safety in the weeks and months ahead is paramount, and having reusable, washable masks aids sanitation, is environmentally friendly, and is cost-effective. If you or a senior you know need masks, please contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly.

Needham Community Council continues to provide necessary resources and food to individuals in need of their services. If you or someone you know are in need of reaching out to them or if you want to learn how you can best volunteer to help at this time, go to their website at: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>. *Please note: They ARE NOT accepting drop-off donations at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.*

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL of CHURCHES **ONECHURCHFUND**

The Massachusetts Council of Churches and its member congregations and denominations believe in One Church. We believe all parts of the body of Christ are necessary. And, at this terrible moment when so many people are suffering because of the COVID19, some parts of the body of Christ are suffering more than others. As members of the one body of Christ, we cannot say to one another, "I have no need of you."

Through the One Church Fund, the Massachusetts Council of Churches prioritizes the financial, practical, and relational support of immigrant, Black, poor, unhoused, and unaffiliated churches.

Many of these churches' needs are going unmet by federal, state, denominational, and local church resources, even as they have been decimated by the circumstances of the COVID19 pandemic compounded by long legacies of racial and economic disparities and systemic inequities. Churches are essential service providers, especially in immigrant Black, poor, and homeless communities. Immigrant churches and Black churches have long operated with an outsized role in meeting the needs of their communities, by providing education, banking, health care, food, clothing, mental health and spiritual support, often because other institutions failed to provide care.

The need for your support is urgent and growing because many of these vibrant churches operate from plate to plate, with no reserves, no endowment, no savings. These churches are in danger of closing critical ministries because of the economic crisis caused by COVID19. These churches are experiencing increasing need at a time of decreasing local resources. We need your help to unify and

sustain these churches in the communities experiencing the most suffering. We can be a balm to one another in the Body of Christ. To learn more, go to <https://www.onechurchfund.org/about/>

Please give generously and ask for what you need to ensure the whole body of Christ endures.

You can also donate through our church's Paypal link at www.fbcneedham.org.



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