

# First Baptist Church in Needham

## Second Sunday of Lent

Edition 51



1

### Worship and Prayer Resource

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

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

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

[www.fbcneedham.org](http://www.fbcneedham.org)



2

---

<sup>2</sup> Hannah Garrity. "Sleep Unborn." Paper lace. Inspired by Psalm 22:23-31 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Use with permission.

---

**We make the Journey of Lent** incorporating the rituals of worship – light, prayer, offering, and benediction – with art, reflection, and the ancient practice of praying with prayer beads. May the creative interpretations and theological contemplation shared here join your own daily experiences, encounters of God’s presence, and prayerful compassion as we make this sacred, worshipful journey together. –*Pastor Holly*

---

## Lighting the Candle of Life

*You may wish to light a candle or use the photo above as a focus for this time.*

**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 the transitions in between and beyond.**

## Scripture

### Psalm 22:23-31

You who fear the LORD, praise our God! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God; stand in awe of God, all you offspring of Israel!

For God, you do not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; You do hide your face from me, but heard when I cried to you. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek our God shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and you rule over the nations.

To you, O God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before you shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for you.

Posterity will serve you; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim your deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that you have done it.

*The word of the Lord, thanks be to God.*

## Reflection

Creator God,  
We cannot hear the trees growing in the cold—seeds pushing up through  
the dirt into the sun.  
And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many.  
We cannot hear the weight of people’s grief, a burden that so often is silent.  
And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can.  
You hear it all.

So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts,  
Asking that you would lend us your ears.  
Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live as you lived.  
We are listening. <sup>3</sup>

---

**PRAYING WITH PRAYER BEADS:** Starting with Lent, Prayers of the People changes format to connect to the spiritual practice of using prayer beads. This ancient practice of holding a strand of beads to help focus the mind and body during prayer has been a very meaningful form of prayer throughout Christian history. As your fingers move from one bead to the next, you pray, sometimes the same prayer again and again and sometimes a different, personal prayer with each bead.

Moving through Lent, you may wish to pray Prayers of the People (or your own prayers) by following along with the prayer beads printed in the Worship Resource or perhaps color each bead as you pray. You may choose to make your own prayer beads or use a set significant to you. However you choose to enter into our weekly <sup>4</sup> congregational prayers, know the act of prayer is holy conversation through the Spirit of God as we journey within the purple shades of Lent’s path. May the prayer beads nurture and support this sacred worship. *–Pastor Holly*



---

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

<sup>4</sup> “Lenten Prayer Beads” - ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.

*Instructions are included in purple italics throughout the prayers so you can follow along with the beads.*

---

## Prayers of the People

*Enter 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

*Holding or sitting with the image of your prayer beads, enter a quiet pause with this prayerful meditation:*

Often the first step to change is listening.

I have to listen to those I've hurt.

I have to listen to creation as she cries.

I have to listen to the voice of the oppressed,

If I ever hope to make things right.

So today as I begin my prayer,

I will start with a moment of silence—

A moment to listen.

And then I will add my voice to the larger communal prayer trusting that God is always listening,

And that God's ears listen with love.<sup>5</sup>

## 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.*

---

<sup>5</sup> Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Place your finger on **the cross** and begin the prayer with these words:

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

Place your finger on the **first three beads** above the cross saying:

**Bead 1:** Creator God, hear my prayer.

**Bead 2:** Loving Christ, hear my prayer.

**Bead 3:** Abiding Spirit, hear my prayer.

The **4 ridged beads** mark off four themed sections of our Prayers of the People. Each ridged bead is followed by 5 smooth beads that represent five specific prayers from our FBC Needham community that are related to that theme. Your finger will move from bead to bead around the loop until you have prayed with each bead and return to the original three beads and cross.

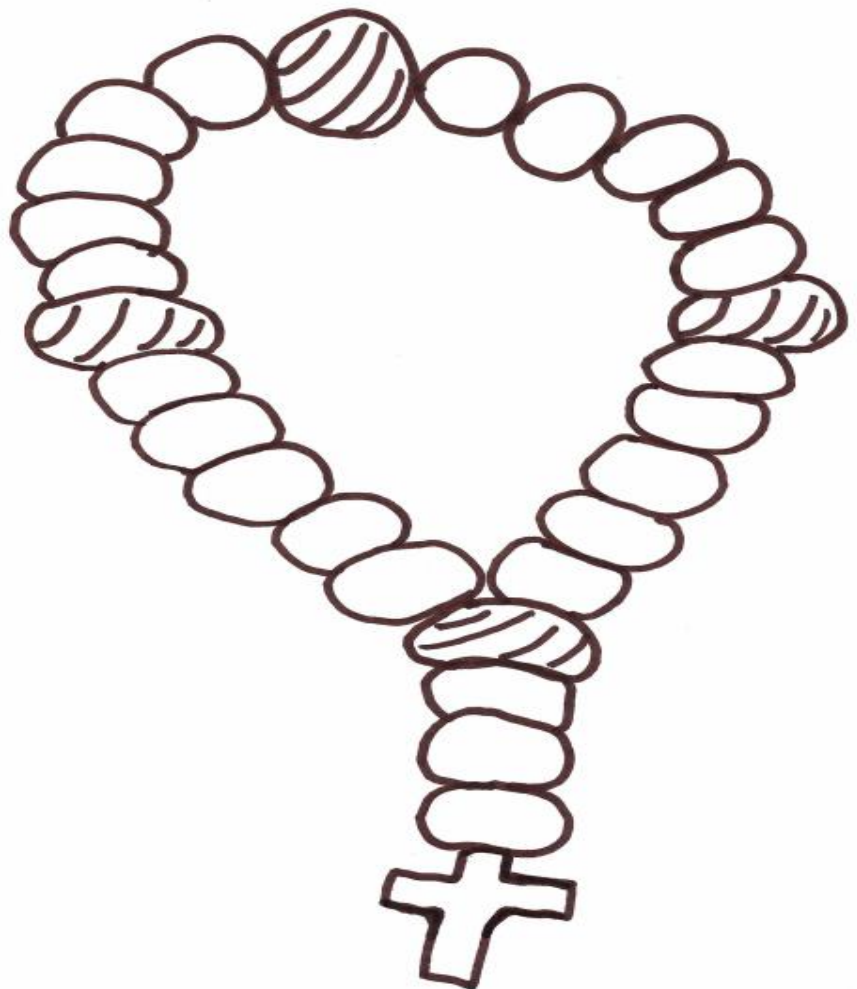
6

### 1<sup>st</sup> Theme: Gratitude & Thanksgiving

Place your finger on the **first ridged bead** above the original three smooth beads saying:

O God, thank you for each new day and all that it brings. You promise to provide all that I

need, caring not only for me, but for all creation and so I rejoice...



<sup>6</sup> "Lenten Prayer Beads". Pen and ink drawing. ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.

Move to the *first set of 5 smooth beads*, and offer your prayers of gratitude & thanksgiving along with those of our community of faith:

**Bead 1:** With Barbara for the meditations and prayers in the weekly Worship Resource that are so meaningful.

**Bead 2:** With Bev, Andrew, and Clif, for Clif's sister receiving the COVID vaccine; Trevor received his second shot; and Wren and her mother receiving a negative COVID test.

**Bead 3:** With Anthony for having time off from work to rest and restore body, mind, and spirit.

**Bead 4:** With Dorothy and Barbara for Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly's weekly calls and ministries.

**Bead 5:** With Dorothy for our congregation's ongoing vocational discernment through Creative Callings and the promise and hope it holds for offering blessing and benefit far beyond our individual imaginings.

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....* <sup>7</sup>



---

<sup>7</sup> FBC Needham member Harry Chin received his first vaccine at Gillette Stadium earlier in February. Photo courtesy of Harry. Use with permission.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Theme: Personal & FBC Needham Concerns

*Place your finger on the second ridged bead saying:*

Faithful God, you know me inside and out, all my hopes and dreams, fears and failures. Guide and support the FBC Needham community and me as we seek to follow Jesus's teachings and life's ministry while sharing the concerns of our hearts as I pray...

*Move to the second set of 5 smooth beads, and offer your prayers of concern along with those shared within our community of faith:*

**Bead 1:** With Liz as she continues to move through her housing transition and navigate the complexities of change.

**Bead 2:** With Bev for the frustration of trying to run errands and grocery shop as safely as possible.

**Bead 3:** With Bev and Andrew as they continue to look for an available appointment for their first COVID vaccine.

**Bead 4:** With Clif for the comfort of animal companions who help make long, uneventful days and boredom more endurable with their presence.

**Bead 5:** With Pastor Holly for the careful and diligent work of our Office Manager, Robin, and Financial Secretary, Cindy, in maintaining the daily work of the congregation that they and their families remain healthy and in good spirits.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Theme: Healing, Solace, & Courage

*Place your finger on the third ridged bead saying:*

God of mercy and peace, your people cry out to you for healing and comfort, courage and strength. Surround your children known and unknown to me with your watch care and abiding presence, as I pray...



Move to the *third set of 5 smooth beads*, and offer your prayers for Spirit's comfort, healing, and peace saying:

**Bead 1:** With the family and friends of Anna McWhorter (age 99) who entered God's nearer presence January 13, 2021, that they find pervasive peace and consolation in the light and legacy of her life among us.

**Bead 2:** With Ernie and Clif in Clif's significant reduction of symptoms and neuropathy as he continues to feel more himself and his treatments provide relief; and for Ernie's continued treatments and wellbeing in between; and for the ongoing physical health and mental stamina of senior citizens in our community.

**Bead 3:** With Barbara for Spiro's continued healing and wellbeing.

**Bead 4:** With Louise for the continued health and well-being for souls we know and love and souls we do not know or find difficult to love.

**Bead 5:** With Liz and her family as they mourn the death of her relative Donna who died after extended ill health that they be comforted as she enters your nearer presence.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....*

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Theme: Community, Nation, & World

*Place your finger on the fourth ridged bead saying:*

God of compassion and justice, there is so much in the news that is painful, from natural disasters to governmental actions to hunger, poverty, and violence. And there are so many instances of lovingkindness, beauty, and hope. Move among your creation and your children, as I pray...

Move to the *fourth set of 5 smooth beads*, and offer your prayers for Spirit's moving:

**Bead 1:** With humankind as we grapple with the continued ravages of COVID19 and as we stand with the families and friends within our own country who grieve the deaths of the 500,000+ precious souls who were among us just a year ago.

- Bead 2:** With Clif in awaiting the first signs of spring with longer days, daffodils breaking through the earth, and the promise of crocus as we endure the cold of late winter.
- Bead 3:** With Dorothy for the continued need to not grow complacent with pandemic safe practices – to continue to mask, to distance, and to endure in order to care for each other.
- Bead 4:** With Ernie for the numerous services provided to meet ongoing and new needs of folks in Needham, especially Meals on Wheels.
- Bead 5:** With Clif for the continued efforts of caring for our earth, renewable energy technologies, and the critical need to enact transformational change in our daily habits, communal priorities, and global wellbeing.
- For the moving of your Spirit in hope and healing throughout our world, praise God, from whom all blessings flow ... And for your enduring presence, justice, and mercy in our brokenness, Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....*

### Concluding the Prayer

*Return to the first ridged bead saying:*

For the prayers of my heart that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

*You may wish to use the original 3 beads to offer your own prayers.*

**Bead 1:**

**Bead 2:**

**Bead 3:**

*Hear my prayer, O Lord...as I pray the prayer your son taught us saying:*

*Holding the cross, end with 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

*During this time of offering, consider going right now to <https://www.fbcneedham.org> (Take Action) to complete your offering or continue to support the ongoing ministry of the church by writing your check to the church office and preparing it to 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. Let this act be a spiritual practice woven in within your worship.*

### 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.**

## Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain

As you leave this space,

May your mouth speak of God's goodness.

May your arms hold those in need.

May your feet walk toward justice.

May your heart trust its worth.

May your soul dance in God's grace.

And may this be your rhythm—

Again and again and again,

Until God's promised day.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,

Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. Amen.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Hymns under copyright are used by permission under CCLI # 763542.

---

## Announcements

### **Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!**

Our **church office** is open for our Office Manager, Robin Bevilacqua. We are encouraging limited visits to the church building, and all who visit are required to mask, sign-in, and socially distance. **If you need to speak with Robin, please call ahead if you can.** Pastoral and other church 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.**

---

### **Worship Resource and Calls of Caring continue!**

**Worship Resources and Calls of Caring are provided each week.** You are encouraged to make use of the Worship Resources and to find other meaningful opportunities for worship and reflection, Zoom services, or other spiritually enriching means of communing with God and community during this time of social distancing. The Zoom links provided for FBC Newton and FBC Jamaica Plain remain the same as before and are posted on our website on our member page. Contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly if you need links to join these services.

---

### **Welcome to Lent – Our Theme is *Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain***

Our Lenten Prayers of the People take on a different format as we hold our communities and FBC family in ongoing intentional prayer and compassion with the ancient practice of praying with prayer beads. A drawing of prayer beads will be included each week for you to follow along or color along if you do not have a set of beads. As our hearts and minds make this 40-day journey toward Easter, may we also be open to the Spirit's moving in our congregation's discernment through our devotional resources drawn from A Sanctified Art, LLC, [www.sanctifiedart.org](http://www.sanctifiedart.org); prayer practices; worship; and daily faithful living.



## **“Again and Again: A Lenten Refrain” – Lenten Zoom Gatherings** **Fellowship, Study, & Prayer | Thursdays in Lent | 7:00pm-8:00pm on** **Zoom | Hosted by Peggy & Mark Hellberg**

Would you like to get together for a time of fellowship, study, and prayer as we explore our Lenten devotional book, “Again and Again: A Lenten Refrain” during the season of Lent? If so, please join us on Thursday nights from 7 PM to 8PM on Zoom as we walk through Lent one week at a time.

We hope that by sharing this time we will get to know each other better, and we will grow in our understanding of God’s call to each of us. It would be great if you would review the resources before the meeting but that is not a requirement. It would be helpful if you had access to a Bible. Please reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you (virtually) on Thursday.

Please feel free to invite your friends.

*Peggy and Mark*

**Zoom Link:** Mark and Peggy are inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FBC Needham Lenten Devotional, Study, and Fellowship

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82130750040?pwd=OFMvakoxNDYzVUg0SFdKOVZQWWFHUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 821 3075 0040

**Passcode:** 575973

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,82130750040#,,,,\*575973# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,82130750040#,,,,\*575973# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 821 3075 0040

Passcode: 575973 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82130750040?pwd=OFMvakoxNDYzVUg0SFdKOVZQWWFHUT09>

# Creative Callings

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



Boston University School of Theology  
Center for Practical Theology

## *You're Invited!* – An invitation to the next Zoom Creative Callings Hub Gathering with Boston University School of Theology Saturday, March 6 | 9:00am-12:30pm

While we have been focused on our congregation's vocational discernment process, our work is actually one of several Boston-area congregational discernment projects that make up *Creative Callings*, sponsored through Boston University. Each vocational discernment process and project is unique to its community of faith. **By participating in our *Creative Callings* discernment, you are invited to attend the Zoom Hub events that enable participating congregations and BU faculty researchers and students to learn from each other.** The *Creative Callings* invitation is below. *Contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by March 5 if you would like to participate to receive the RSVP link to access the Zoom meeting.*

Hello Creative Callings Hub Congregation Members,

I hope this e-mail finds you well. We are writing to kindly remind your team to RSVP to the virtual Hub Gathering taking place on **Saturday, March 6th from 9am-12:30pm**. This event will take place via Zoom and the theme is "Communal Care: Resources and Practices." This will be a practical session that will include:

- several brief workshops we will offer on practices of communal care (you will choose one in which to participate)
- lightning talks by several of our hub congregation leaders to open up larger group discussion around strategies for innovation during this challenging time
- small group conversation to share with one another what is happening in your own congregations, resources, connection
- musical prayer to ground and guide our work together

We look forward to gathering together, checking in, and resourcing each other. We expect that each congregational team will have 3-4 participants. Thank you so much. Our Creative Callings team is looking forward to gathering with you!

**We begin STAGE 3 of our *Creative Callings* – COLLECTIVE & INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT – Thursday, April 22, at 6:30pm on Zoom! Put it on your calendar, and plan to be part of the process!**

All of the previous and current videos are available on the *Creative Callings* link on the church website. If you have questions about *Creative Callings*, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, please contact Pastor Daryn, [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org), or Pastor Holly, [pastorholly@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastorholly@fbcneedham.org).

---

### **Questions About Accessing COVID Vaccinations in Needham?**

Needham Public Health has created a dedicated email and phone line for vaccination questions. Before contacting Needham Public Health, please see the Frequently Asked Questions on the Town's COVID webpage

(<http://www.needhamma.gov/documentcenter/view/22927> - updated as of 2/5). You can email questions to [needhamvaccine@needhamma.gov](mailto:needhamvaccine@needhamma.gov) or call 781-455-7934. Note, this line is a voicemail box. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

---

**Needham Community Council** continues to provide necessary resources and food to individuals in need of their services: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>.

*Please note: They are accepting donations by appointment only at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.*

**Norfolk County's "Are You Ok?" Program for Seniors & Residents with Disabilities** – Provided free of charge to Norfolk County seniors and residents with disabilities, this program provides a daily check-in call 365 days a year monitored by staff from Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and Fallon Ambulance. **For more information or to sign up, call Deputy Sheriff Cheryl Bambery at 866-900-7865.**