

First Baptist Church in Needham

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Edition 48



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Worship and Prayer Resource
Sunday, February 7, 2021
(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

¹ Photo: "Tsar's Church Devotion – 2010" The Kremlin, Moscow, Russia, ©Holly Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.



Mark 1:29-39 • illustratedchildministry.com

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 147:1-11, 20c

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for you are gracious, and a song of praise is fitting:

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; you gather the outcasts of Israel.

You heal the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

You determine the number of the stars; you give to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; your understanding is beyond measure.

The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; you cast the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

You cover the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

You give to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

Your delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor your pleasure in the speed of a runner; but you, LORD, take pleasure in those who fear you, in those who hope in your steadfast love.

Praise the LORD!

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

"Worship is the joyful acknowledgement that this broken vessel of a body is yet wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God....When we are fully present in mind and soul and body, we embrace worship as a time of praise and thanksgiving as well as a time of lament and mourning."³

Today's Psalmist offers the full-bodied praise to God that does not ignore or shy away from the realities of pain and uncertainty in life that enables us to sing our own prayers with assurance during COVID. Mark then depicts a day in the life of Jesus the Healer. In this Gospel text, Jesus has no break—even when he retires to Simon's home, still, he is called on to exert body, mind, and soul to care for

³Yolanda Pierce, *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit* (Minneapolis, MN: Broadleaf Books, 2021), 83.

the needs of others. And yet, even in these demands – which draw to mind the incredible efforts of healthcare workers showing up again and again – Jesus pauses to pray – to bring his full self to God's presence.

Imagine if in that quiet place in the early morning hour, he prayed with today's Psalm. Our prayerful worship is not relegated to a single hour or act. Instead, as Christians, we are entreated to enter each experience and encounter as an act of worship – in praise and thanksgiving, lament and mourning. As you hold each prayer of our community, do so with your full body, mind, and soul trusting that God's Spirit is working through our broken, tired, and hopeful places.

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 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...

As we continue to navigate each of our lives with COVID19, give thanks that **Spiro Stylianopoulos** is feeling better after testing positive two weeks ago. We continue to hold him, **Pastor Daryn, Fayrah, Anna, and Teddy** as they are tested to ensure no one else is positive. We hold **Daryn** to Spirit's healing as she experienced symptoms and pray that she will test negative along with Fayrah, Anna, and Teddy...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

We celebrate February birthdays with **Anne Wile** (2nd) and **Bruce Wile** (5th). As they enter a new year of life, may each day be woven through with compassion, love, and goodness. For the bright light they shine in the world and in our community of faith ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We hold **Liz** to Spirit's safekeeping as she navigates decisions about her home and future housing. In the momentary disappointment of family not being able to come in

last weekend due to the storm, we ask your comfort that they will be together as soon as possible and that their care for and with Liz continues unabated. May your tender mercy rest upon Liz's heart and mind in this trying, stressful, and uncertain time. May Maxwell and Rascal be a comfort and joy each day. And assure her of your presence closer than the next breath and of the loving community who walk with her each step of the way ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Bev, we are thankful that **Trevor** and **Harry** received their first COVID vaccine shot this week. For the diligence of folk navigating the process of getting the vaccine and for the administrators, medical personnel, volunteers, drug companies, and government officials diligently working to make available and safely distribute the vaccines... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Dorothy, we continue to hold **Ernie** and **Helen** to God's continued watchcare for their well-being and health while continuing cancer treatment, especially Ernie's next treatment this week. We also hold them and all persons with compromised health as they navigate their bodies' care alongside receiving the COVID vaccine... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew, we hold **individuals struggling with isolation, depression, anxiety, and fear** as the pandemic drags on requiring us to remain cut off and alone. For each soul who finds the work of resiliency and daily life grows hard and the burden too much to bear, and for the mental health workers, agencies, and communities who provide ongoing acute crisis-intervention and chronic, sustained services... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

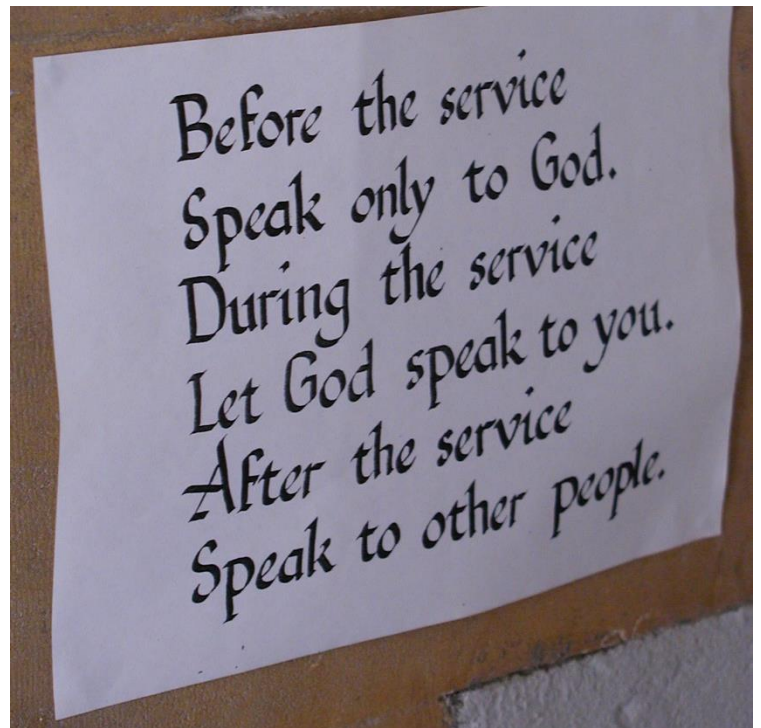
With Nancy, we lift her friend **Patty** who mourns her father's unexpected death to Spirit's deep peace and consolation as he enters God's nearer presence...*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, Ernie, Dorothy, we offer profound gratitude for **family members** who remain untouched by COVID and who continue to check in, care for us, shovel our snow, share wonderful food and time, and keep us company when we are isolated or lonely... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Pastor Holly, we give thanks that her son-in-law, **Greylyn**, was able to see an allergist and has begun receiving relief from severe allergic eczema. For his continued healing and the longer process of diagnosing its cause ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn and Ernie, we give thanks for the lovingkindness and compassion of **our FBC Needham community** and cherish the prayers and expressions of love and concern that buoy us in our moments and seasons of crisis, illness, and recovery ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Andrew, we give thanks for baby **Carmen's** healthy 6th months cardiology examination and her continued growth...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*



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We continue to lift Pastor Holly's friend, **Eda Jackson**, to your watchcare as she remains in COVID ICU and turned 82 this week. We give thanks for the small indications of awareness she can offer now. We also hold her children **Gray and Dabs** to your discerning compassion as they navigate difficult decisions going forward and learn to accept their mother's current health reality. We also continue to hold Nancy's relative, **MaryAnne**, who has entered hospice care in Vermont. For her family and loved ones in this sacred time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Nancy, we celebrate **Mark and Peggy** joining our Creative Callings conversations. We give thanks that our **second year of Creative Callings** is underway and for our community partners' testimonies and support. For their insights and willingness to accompany us in our discernment... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

⁴ Photo: "Chapel Door Invitation," University of Wales, Lampeter, Wales, UK – 2008; ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.

We continue to hold in prayer Pastor Daryn's grandfather, **Dearl Bunce**, who is home and continues rehabilitation for speech, occupational, and physical therapy after **suffering a brain bleed and lack of consciousness** during a violent home invasion. We pray for his ongoing recovery and for his wife, **Shirley**, as she recovers from the trauma of the experience. Within this recovery, we pray for the **three men** who have been arrested for their actions to the Bunces that their arrests enables the Bunces to continue their healing. We pray this experience will take root within the three men accused and will be a turning point in their lives toward the goodness, compassion, and light that we hold to be within them as children of God in spite of the harm they are accused of inflicting. We also pray for the **other victims** who suffered from this crime spree over the last year that they are surrounded by loving families, friends, and communities who can support their healing, as well... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We celebrate **Harry's** inclusion in an Olin College anthropology course and anticipate the insights he offers the students as a senior adult will enhance their learning. For the wealth of information we can learn from each other when we listen with intention, creativity, and care ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

In the aftermath of the winter storm, with Andrew, we give thanks for the **utility workers, heat suppliers, tree service workers, maintenance crews, and snowplow crews** who enable us to shelter in safety and warmth and navigate clear streets when necessary...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

As our country observes Black History Month in February, we continue to offer prayers that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and that the tendencies toward discrimination and dehumanization in our world would be eradicated**. Give us the **strength to overcome** these sins ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

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

*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.**

Passing of the 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.

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.

While Pastor Daryn and her family are navigating COVID, if you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.

Worship - 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 Holly if you need links to join these services.

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: <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.

Creative Callings

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



Boston University School of Theology
Center for Practical Theology

Our third video set with Latanya Steele, Director of Ageing Services at the Center at the Heights/Senior Center in Needham, will be available on the Creative Callings link on the church website on Sunday, February 7. Please watch the video prior to OUR THIRD CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTION conversation on Thursday, February 11th at 6:30pm. All of the previous and current videos are available on the Creative Callings link on the church website. You should have received a Creative Callings packet for Year 2 - it contains a schedule, bios for our community partners, and more information about the timeline of Year 2.

Reserve Thursdays at 6:30pm in 2021 for our congregational conversations for discernment via Zoom!

Thank you to all who have shown up curious, engaged the videos and video partners in meaningful dialogue, curated questions, and held possibility for our church in this process of discernment and dreaming. 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, or Pastor Holly, pastorholly@fbcneedham.org.

The following page includes a number of helpful resources for yourself or others. You may want to detach it and keep it on hand for future reference.

Now Accepting Applications

NEED HELP PAYING RENT DUE TO COVID-RELATED INCOME LOSS?

APPLY FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

To qualify:

- Must be a Needham resident
- Have reduced income because of COVID-19
- Have an annual income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (\$67,400 for individual; \$96,250 for family of 4)

CONTACT: robyn@metrowestcd.org
or 617-923-3505 x 5

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

How Are You?

Mental Health Awareness & Care

The pandemic is exacting a daily price from each of us mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, financially, and through our sense of instability and insecurity. If you are finding life increasingly difficult to navigate, there are numerous resources available to help throughout our larger local, county, state, and national communities. **At FBC Needham we recognize the necessity of behavioral and mental health support in nurturing wellbeing and safekeeping of our community as well as physical safety and wellbeing. Isolation occurs in so many ways.** As your pastors, Daryn and Holly endeavor to address your spiritual needs *and* connect you to agencies and services that can directly help meet other potential needs. Please utilize these resources and share them with friends and loved ones who may benefit from them.

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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.**

National Suicide Prevention Hotline – 800-273-8255 · We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. **For more information, check online at www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org**

The Trevor Project – www.thetrevorproject.org · The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth. Our trained counselors offer 24/7 support. If you are a young person in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and judgment-free place to talk, call the **TrevorLifeline** now at 1-866-488-7386. **TrevorChat** is a free, confidential and secure instant messaging service that provides live help to LGBTQ youth. **TrevorText** is a confidential and secure resource that provides live help for LGBTQ youth with a trained specialist, over text messages. **Text START to 678-678.**

Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline – www.helplinema.org · The Helpline is the only statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment and recovery services. Helpline services are free and confidential. Caring, trained Specialists will help you understand the treatment system and your options. **Call the helpline at 1-800-327-5050**

Mental Health America (screening tools) – <https://screening.mhanational.org> · Founded in 1909, MHA promotes mental health as a critical part of overall wellness, including prevention services for all; early identification and intervention for those at risk; integrated care, services, and supports for those who need it; with recovery as the goal. MHA provides online screening tools, recommendations for maintaining wellbeing, and resources/programs, a newsletter for current mental health information, and advocacy.

SafeLink – Massachusetts' Domestic Violence Hotline – 877-785-2020 · Casa Myrna is Boston's largest provider of shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, providing safety, resources, advocacy and information since 1977. They operate SafeLink, the 24/7 statewide domestic violence hotline, and promote domestic and dating violence prevention through awareness and education. All of their supports are provided to survivors free of charge. **For more information, check Casa Myrna online at www.casamyrna.org**

Needham Community Council – www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org
The Needham Community Council is a private non-profit organization which supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educational or social needs and promotes volunteerism, community and a sense of shared responsibility. If you are a Needham resident in need of resources from the **Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Lift Transport Program, Tablets & Tutors, Medical Equipment Loan Program, Child Assault Prevention Program, Cyber Bullying, etc.**, the NCC can help! Check online or call 781-444-2415 for more information.

Needham Public Health – www.needhamma.gov/85/Public-Health
NPH's **Traveling Meals** program provides two meals/day to qualified Needham residents (both temporary and long-term). NPH also offers **Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention** and the **Gift of Warmth Program** (utility bill relief). For more information on the full list of services, check online or call 978-455-7940.