

# First Baptist Church in Needham

## Second Sunday of Eastertide

Edition 57



### Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, April 11, 2021

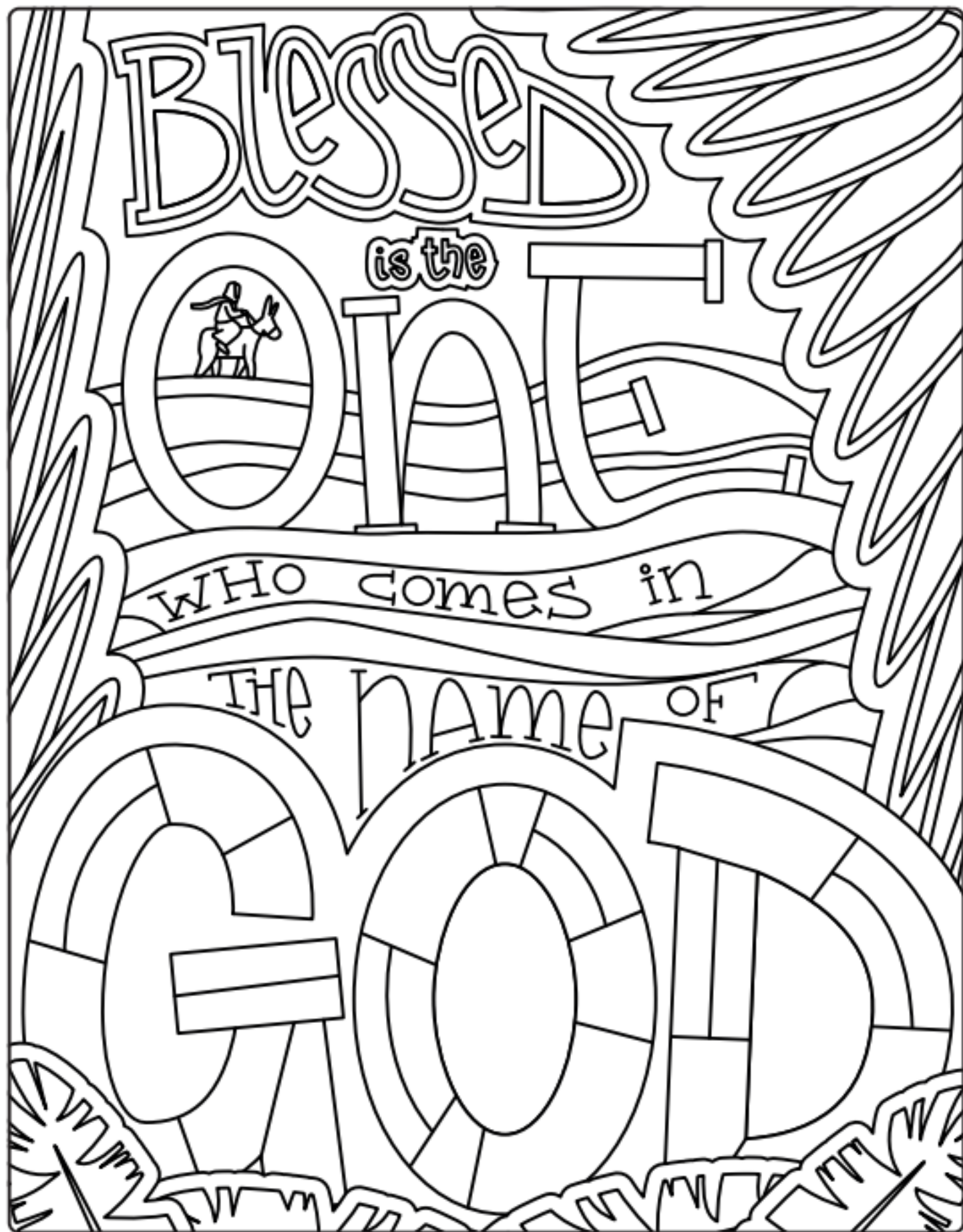
*(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

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

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<sup>1</sup> LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. Christ shows himself to Thomas, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=54879> [retrieved March 23, 2021]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/maryannsolari/5119341372/>.





## Lighting the Candle of Life

*You may wish to light a candle or use one of the included images 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

### John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

## Reflection

These bright, promise-of-spring weeks,  
This Eastertide, this second year with COVID,  
These cries to “return to normalcy” sprayed with bullets  
While people tried to live their lives  
And run their errands  
And relax after a long day  
And complete their work  
Leave me in the liminal spaces with Thomas –  
Unsure of what I’m hearing...  
Unclear what to think, believe, to feel.  
The rules have shifted, changed  
We have changed  
And we haven’t  
And we must  
And there’s Jesus in the room with me  
Wounds still fresh  
Saying, “I’m here. It’s time.”<sup>2</sup>

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH PRAYER BEADS:

We continue the ancient practice of holding a strand of beads to help focus the mind and body during prayer in Eastertide. 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. 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 our weekly congregational prayers, know the act of prayer is holy conversation through the Spirit of God as we journey through the light and life of Eastertide. May the prayer beads nurture and support this sacred worship. –*Pastor Holly*

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

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<sup>2</sup> Reflection on John 20: 19-31. ©Holly C. Benzenhafer, 2021. Use with permission.

## 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:*

As a child of God, follower of Christ,  
God invites me to bring my doubts and fears,  
my joys and concerns, my petitions and praise,  
and offer them for the earth and all its creatures.  
Receive these prayers, O God,  
and transform me through them,  
that I may have eyes to see and a heart to understand  
not only what you do on my behalf,  
but what you call me to do  
as your tangible presence in this life.<sup>3</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.*

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

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from a prayer in *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002). Year B - Easter - Second Sunday of Easter : Revised Common Lectionary (vanderbilt.edu)

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...

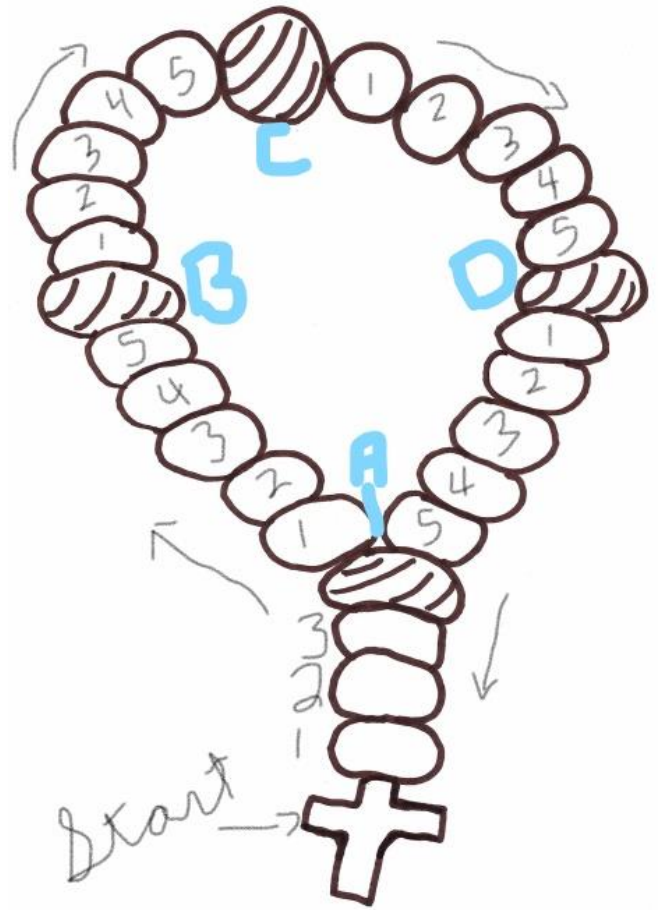
*Place your finger on the first three beads above the cross saying:*

*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.*



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

*Place your finger on the first ridged bead (A) 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...

*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 Ernie and Andrew, for the beauty of spring flowers and budding trees now opening to reveal their joyous colors.

**Bead 2:** With Liz and Ernie for time with family over the Easter holiday.

**Bead 3:** With Louise for the health and well-being of family and friends.

**Bead 4:** With Andrew and Pastor Holly for friends and family members finally able to receive COVID vaccinations.

<sup>4</sup> "Lenten Prayer Beads". Pen and ink drawing. ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.

**Bead 5:** For the opportunities to share God's love through daily small kindnesses – a note, a call, a greeting on the street, etc.  
*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....*

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

*Place your finger on the second ridged bead (B) 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 Andrew in anticipating Carmen's first birthday and hopes to celebrate with her.

**Bead 2:** For our office staff, Robin and Cindy, in gratitude for their diligent work that enables the congregation to offer consistent and thoughtful presence to our tenants, service people, and visitors.

**Bead 3:** For our pastors, Daryn and Holly, who move through our congregation and communities offering pastoral presence and care, guidance, and compassionate leadership each day.

**Bead 4:** For the project team working on the front of the building to bring it back into full function and sound structure.

**Bead 5:** With Pastor Daryn, Pastor Holly for the congregation's move toward intentional decisions with our next phase of *Creative Callings*.

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

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

*Place your finger on the third ridged bead (C) 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 Liz in continued prayer for her cousin Linda in memory care in Florida and her cousin Elaine preparing for hip replacement surgery this summer.
- Bead 2:** With Dorothy and Louise for an end to the ceaseless gun violence, murders, and infliction of pain and injustice that seems to grow daily that transformative and pervasive healing beyond our imagining will take root and grow and the Spirit's peace bring new life.
- Bead 3:** For the family of David Eaton, his wife Donna, and mother-in-law, Louise, as they grieve his death to COVID. May his entrance into God's nearer embrace console them and give them peace.
- Bead 4:** With Marty in her return home from rehabilitation after a stroke in March that her recovery continue and her spirits be lifted through the process.
- Bead 5:** With Pastor Holly for her friend, Suzanne, who is living with the onset of new health issues.
- Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....*

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

*Place your finger on the fourth ridged bead (D) 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 Ernie for friends who continue to check in, call, and go for walks as he continues treatments.
- Bead 2:** With Liz for the grace and goodness of people gathered in worship in many and varied forms on Easter.
- Bead 3:** For communities experiencing earthquake, volcanic activity, floods, drought, fire, tsunami threats, and violent storms that they have peace of mind and sound judgement of how to best respond in the moment and be held in Spirit's safe-keeping.
- Bead 4:** With Asian and Pacific Islander persons in our community, country, and around the world who have and continue to experience hate, discrimination, slurs, violence, and threat to their safety and well-being in



racist and anxiety-driven actions of others. Protect them, O God. And convict us who have acted this way or neglected to stand in its opposition.

*Bead 5:* With women from every walk of life – every culture, ethnic group, religious tradition, and strata – who continue to endure misogyny, patriarchal attitudes, pay and work discrimination, belittling, and denial of the fullness of their living as images of God. Require hearts and minds to turn, to shake loose from their mis-thinking, and to celebrate the goodness of women in all their forms and being as your dear, beloved children.  
*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 (A) 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.**

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## Announcements

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.**

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## Worship Resource 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.

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## Praying with Prayer Beads Continues in Eastertide



We extend our Lenten practice of praying with Prayer Beads into the Holy Season of Eastertide. This ancient practice allows us to follow the path of the beads as we hold the prayers of thanksgiving and concern, gratitude and sorrow, compassion, and celebration in community each week. 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. May this practice move us through this season of new life, faithful congregational decisions, and the moving of the Spirit.

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**Creative Callings**

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



**Boston University** School of Theology  
Center for Practical Theology

### *Creative Callings* Stage 3:

## COLLECTIVE & INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Intentional Decisions – Faithfully Stepping Forward

**Starts Thursday, April 22, at 6:30pm on Zoom!**

Previous 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).

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<sup>5</sup> "Lenten Prayer Beads" - ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.