

# First Baptist Church in Needham

## Third Sunday of Eastertide

Edition 58



1

## Worship and Prayer Resource Sunday, April 18, 2021

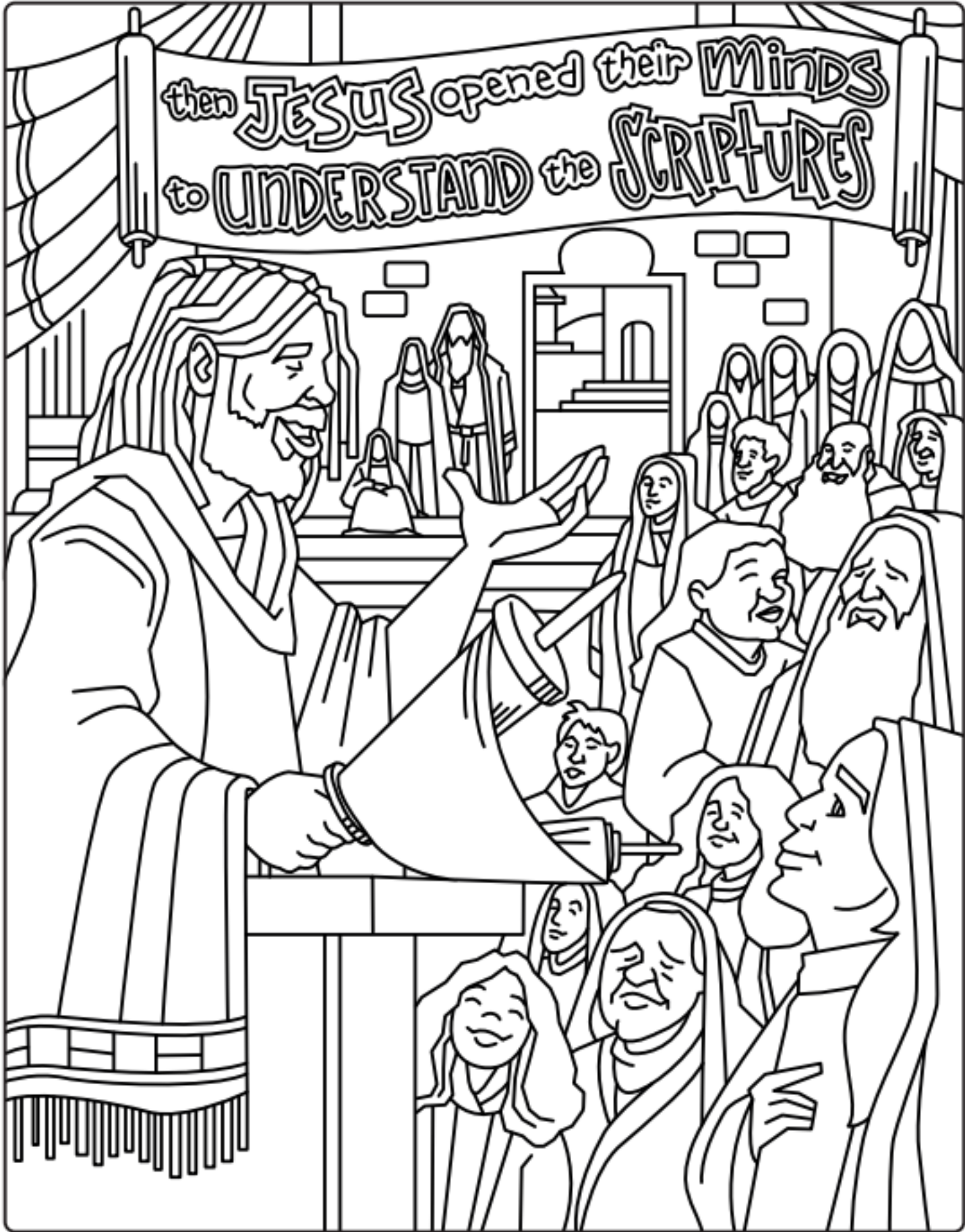
*(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

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

---

<sup>1</sup>Hofheinz-Doring, Margret, 1910-1994. Endless Road, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55314> [retrieved March 23, 2021].



## 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

### Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah

But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for God's self;  
the LORD hears when I call.

When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

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

## Reflection

You keep showing up, Christ.

In the midst of my angst at a world gone awry

You keep showing up.

Revealing and healing,

Calling by name and claiming.

Unsettling and redirecting....

In my waking and my dreaming,  
Surprise me.  
Restore and renew my spirit.  
Challenge my comfortable habits and routines,  
My expectations and degrees of normalcy.  
Require me to feel with great love your empathy for souls like and unlike me.  
And enable me to live with daring faith into the unknown tomorrow  
Trusting you keep showing up.<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 into 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.*

---

## **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.

---

<sup>2</sup> Reflection on Psalm 4. ©Holly C. Benzenhafer, 2021. Use with permission.

## Prayerful Meditation

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

Holy God,  
you have called me to follow in the way of your risen Son,  
and to care for those who are my companions,  
not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.  
Seeking to be a true friend of all,  
I offer my prayers on behalf of the church and the world.  
Guide me in the path of discipleship,  
so that, as you have blessed me,  
I may be a blessing for others,  
bringing the promise of the kingdom near  
by my words and deeds.<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:*

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.

---

<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)

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.

4

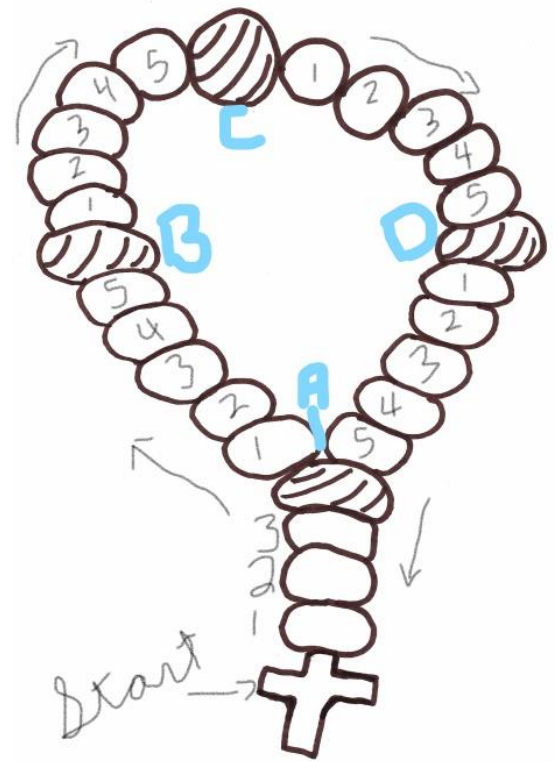
### 1<sup>st</sup> Theme: Gratitude & Thanksgiving

Place your finger on the **first ridged bead (A)** above the original three 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 Peggy, Louise, Dorothy, Ernie, Andrew, and Liz in joy for spring weather, beautiful flowering trees, and the vibrant forsythia and daffodils. And with Harry and Bev for the opportunity to see each other and celebrate Easter in worship on the lawn.
- Bead 2:** With Liz in receiving her second vaccine and Nancy, Clif, and Pastor Holly's son-in-law, Greylyn, in receiving their first dose. And also that all of Harry's children have been vaccinated.
- Bead 3:** With Harry that his sister, Emma (aka Bunny), will be moved from Seattle to memory care in Sacramento just a few minutes from their siblings' home.
- Bead 4:** With Ernie that his neighbor, Ann Cosgrove, is recovering and getting healthier each day after her cancer treatments over the past year.
- Bead 5:** With Barbara in the shifting of her dialysis to more convenient days and times that allows her to enjoy afternoons and weekends.
- Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....**



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

## 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 Ernie as he undergoes tests for symptoms both which leave him with low energy, that he know the presence of daily prayers and loving affection from family and friends to strengthen his body, mind, and soul and that he receive answers soon.

**Bead 2:** With Bev and Louise for Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly and all the unseen extra work they do to enable the congregation to function and worship each week and the faithful calls of caring that brighten the week.

**Bead 3:** With Peggy and Pastor Daryn in Daryn's current travel to see family and for Andrew, herself, and all souls seeking to travel as safely and responsibly as possible in order to reunite with beloved family.

**Bead 4:** With Anne for Bruce as he recovers from a recent hospitalization and blood clots and she and Sherri can now visit him at Wingate.

**Bead 5:** With Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly as the congregation prepares for intentional decisions going forward with *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 Bev for Helen's health improving and as she undergoes testing.

- Bead 2:** With Clif for a friend in San Paulo grieving a loved one who died of COVID. And with Anthony, Andrew, and Anne for people experiencing adverse reactions to vaccines and the concerns over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, in particular, that people are restored to full health and that concern not slow vaccination availability and progress in ending the pandemic.
- Bead 3:** With Pastor Daryn for the family and friends of the rapper DMX as they grieve his death and trust in his own assertion of faith in Christ and for all persons who struggle with substance abuse and who love persons living with addictions that they know Christ's love and compassion in each day and night.
- Bead 4:** With John as his family grieves the untimely death of his brother-in-law, Officer Joseph "Joey" DeLorenzo, that they know deep peace as he is drawn to God's nearer presence.
- Bead 5:** With Liz for her cousin Elaine as she prepares for hip surgery in May.  
*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 Liz for the large number of people who voted in local elections and the boon of interest and investment in civil governance and discourse.
- Bead 2:** With Andrew and Dorothy for the growing violence, threats, and hatred fueled by white supremacists, ultra-right and violent militant groups in our country that Spirit's transformative power thwart their spread and embolden the hearts, minds, and actions of each person to stand in opposition to all hate and chaotic fearmongering.
- Bead 3:** With Pastor Daryn for the shooting victims and survivors in Knoxville, Minnesota, Michigan, Virginia, and unnamed places that their healing and



restoration be accompanied by justice and transformation of the brokenness of violence and abuse of power in our country.

*Bead 4:* With Anthony that peace and tolerance infuse all races of people for each other in Divine abundance.

*Bead 5:* With Dorothy in recognition of the draining sameness of so many days of the pandemic that wear on mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health and wellbeing. May we be gentle and compassionate with ourselves as well as each other and avail all possible resources to aid our patience and resilience at this point of the pandemic.

*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.**

---

## 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.**

---

## Worship Resource and Calls of Caring 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.

---

## 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. <sup>5</sup>

**Creative Callings**

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



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

*Creative Callings* Year 2, Phase 2:

**COLLECTIVE & INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**

Intentional Decisions – Faithfully Stepping Forward

**Opening Retreat - Thursday, April 22, at 6:30pm on Zoom!**

**Watch for additional information for the Zoom link, and plan to attend.**

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).

---

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