

# First Baptist Church in Needham

## Ascension Sunday

Edition 62



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### Worship and Prayer Resource Sunday, May 16, 2021

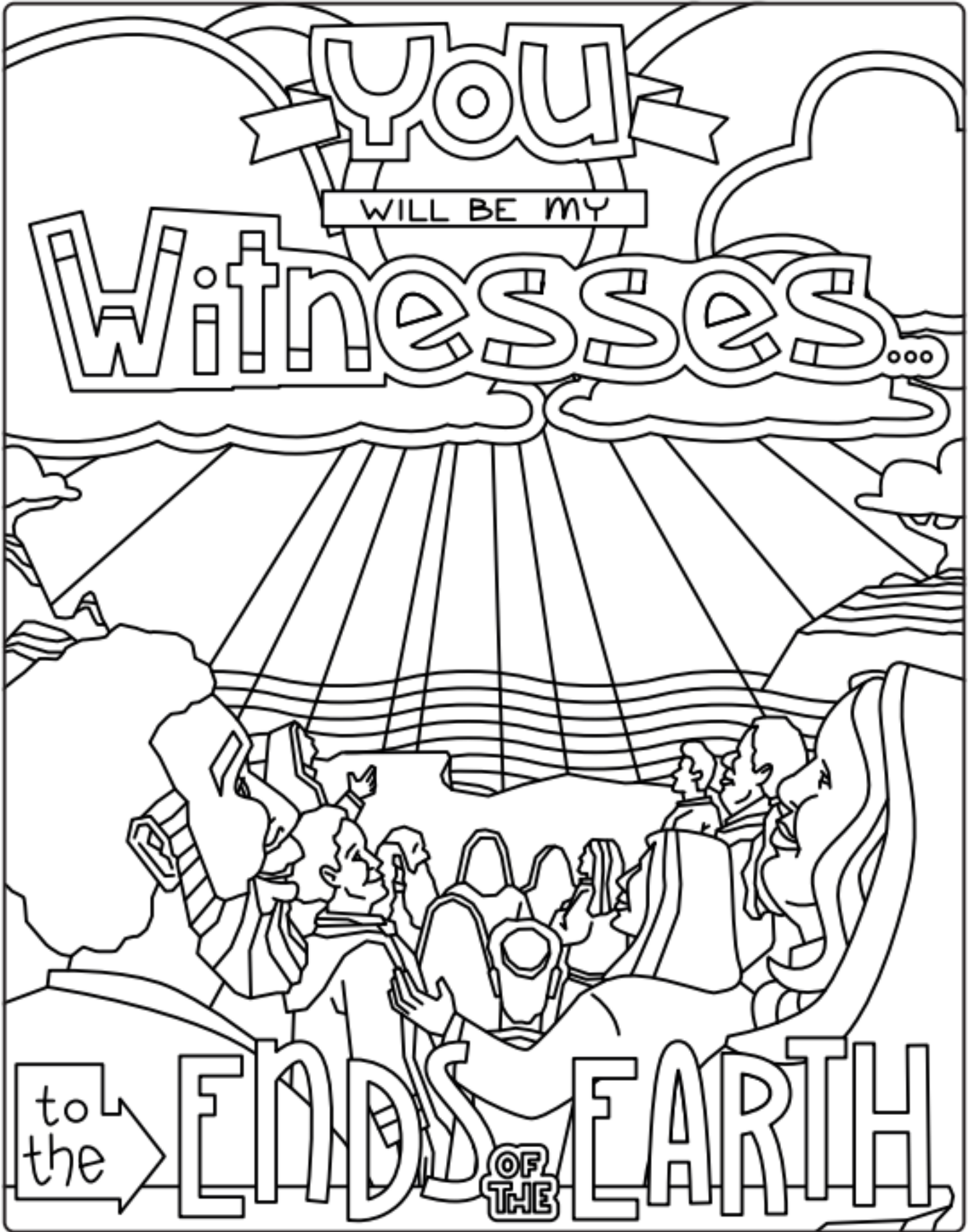
*(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

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

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<sup>1</sup> JESUS MAFA. The Ascension, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48398> [retrieved April 6, 2021].



## Scripture

### Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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

## Reflection

Pray remember what I have recommended to you, which is, to think often on God, by day, by night, in your business, and even in your diversions. God is always near you and with you: leave God not alone. You would think it rude to leave a friend alone who came to visit you: why then must God be neglected? Do not then forget God, but think on God often, adore God continuously, live and die with God; this is the glorious employment of a Christian. In a word, this is our profession; if we do not know it, we must learn.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Brother Laurence, "Practice and Presence of God, Book One: Tenth Letter," in *The Brother Lawrence Collection* (Radford, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008) 37.

*Instructions are included in pink italics throughout the prayers so you can follow along with the prayer beads or the provided drawing of beads.*

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## Prayers of the People

### Prayerful Meditation

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

Wait for the Lord,  
Whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord,  
Be strong, take heart.”<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...

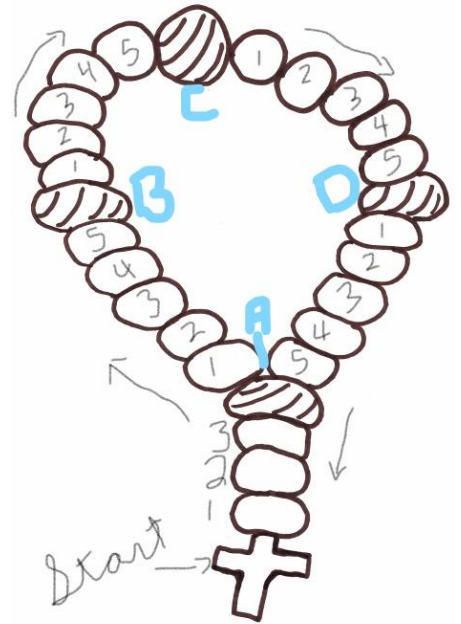
*Place your finger on the first three beads above the cross saying:*

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

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

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

*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.*



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<sup>3</sup> Taize Community. ©Ateliers et Presses de Taize, Taize Community, France, GIA Publications, Inc.

## 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 Anne that Bruce is doing well and his blood factors are well monitored and the goodness of stabilized health.
- Bead 2:** With John in the joy of family together over Mother's Day and "chaos at its finest" with everyone together.
- Bead 3:** With Mark Holley who was able to be with family at his son's wedding in Texas and the goodness of celebration.
- Bead 4:** With Harry for worship services on the lawn.
- Bead 5:** With Dorothy, Anne, and Harry for the flowers Pastor Daryn provided on Mother's Day.
- 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 Marty as her recovery continues to ebb and flow.
- Bead 2:** With Jessica in considering next steps for herself and her family.
- Bead 3:** With Harry in concern for his friend of 70 years, Mary McKeever.
- Bead 4:** With Liz for continuing to be held to God's safekeeping through the prayers and lovingkindness of her FBC congregation as she works through her housing concerns.
- Bead 5:** With John, Pastor Daryn, and Pastor Holly for the congregation's faithful decisions 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 Stan for his daughter, Julia, in Toronto, who is awaiting access to the COVID vaccination along with many other people in Canada that they remain healthy and safe.

**Bead 2:** With Liz for her cousin Elaine's continued recovery from hip surgery.

**Bead 3:** With Ernie as his return to treatment remains delayed and he navigates additional medical tests and visits.

**Bead 4:** For the individuals and families and friends of persons continued to be gunned down in mass shootings throughout our country that their pain, recovery, and grief will be met with justice, healing, and a turning from our cultures of and penchant for violence.

**Bead 5:** With families and friends grieving the deaths of loved ones to COVID in the last year and who continue to live in concern and fear for unvaccinated loved ones and persons impacted by new variants.

*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 Harry for the students he worked with at Olin College this semester as their term ends that their work, ingenuity, and creativity continue to better the world.

**Bead 2:** With Ernie for the goodness and wellbeing each member of the congregation and how we each reach out to our circles of relationships each day.

**Bead 3:** For the students, teachers, families, and community of Kazan, Russia, who grieve the deaths of friends, classmates, a colleague, and beloved family members in a school shooting.

**Bead 4:** With Pastor Holly in celebrating her dear friend, Hank, in graduating with his Master of Divinity from Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio, and her good friend, McKenna, in her ordination into ministry through the Presbyterian Church, USA.

**Bead 5:** For BIPOC persons who continue to endure the scourge of racism, hatred, denigration, and dismissal even when the spotlight of public attention turns away, that we may remain vigilant in ensuring each person is dignified as a child of God and nothing less.

*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.

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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 on the Lawn

*(weather permitting)*

**Sundays May 2 – June 6, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

COVID protocols – masks and physical distancing – remain in place.

As we are moving through *Creative Callings* congregational decision-making and prepare for individual vocational discernment and exploration, join us on the Warren Street side lawn of our building for worship on Sundays. Contact Pastor Daryn with any questions.

**Planning to Attend? Pre-register at:** [www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries](http://www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries)

Services are also recorded and posted on our website for later viewing at:  
[www.fbcneedham.org/outdoor-worship](http://www.fbcneedham.org/outdoor-worship)



*You're Invited!*

**Celebration on the Lawn & Car Parade  
for First Baptist Church Nursery School**

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**  
**Time *tbd***



We will gather in celebration of the Nursery School's years as a ministry at FBC Needham and their transition and future as part of Needham Children's Center. Our celebration will include a ceremony of remembrance, a blessing, and sending forth followed by a car parade!

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**Creative Callings**

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



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

***Creative Callings* Year 2, Session 2:**  
**COLLECTIVE & INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**  
Intentional Decisions – Faithfully Stepping Forward  
**Continues on Thursdays, at 6:30pm on Zoom!**

**April – May** – *Honing Our Congregational Call/Recognizing New Life*: intentional conversation and reflection as a community

**June – July** – *One on Ones*: individual vocational discernment conversations

**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).

# India COVID Crisis Donation Appeal

## *through International Ministries of ABCUSA*

International Ministries continues to work with partner conventions and mission hospitals in India to respond to the need of the current COVID crisis. We are raising funds to help mission hospitals to purchase life-saving equipment like ventilators and oxygen concentrators, and PEE for doctors, nurses, and hospital workers.

The Board of the Vellore Foundation has approved \$250,000 to help the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India, to respond to the current COVID crisis. International Ministries of ABCUSA has provided a first gift of \$10,000. In addition, International Ministries has provided \$14,500 to the hospitals of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India to assist their work in this crisis. Follow the link to learn more about the COVID response of the Vellore Foundation: <https://vellorecmc.org/>.

**Make checks payable** to “International Ministries”

Note on the check “India COVID”.

**Send checks to:**

International Ministries,  
1003 W. 9th Ave., Ste. A.,  
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

**Give online at:**

<https://portal.internationalministries.org/disaster-relief>

Click link “I would like to support”

Choose “OGHS Covid Response: International”

Check the box “Dedicate my donation in honor or in memory of someone”, and add (India COVID)

Thank you for your prayer and support in this global crisis.

