

First Baptist Church in Needham

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Transition Edition 4



1

One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource

Sunday, July 25, 2021

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

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

¹ Fichter, David. Potluck Mural, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56967> [retrieved June 25, 2021]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/zenmama/5429643508> - L. Sabato.

Scripture

Psalm 145:10-18

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

The first thing the world knew about Christians was that they ate together.

At the beginning of each week they gathered—rich and poor, slaves and free, Jews and Gentiles, women and men—to celebrate the day the whole world changed, to toast to resurrection. While each community worshipped together a bit differently, it appears most practiced communion by enjoying a full meal together....They remembered Jesus with food, stories, laughter, tears, debate, discussion, and cleanup. They thanked God not only for the bread that came from the earth, but also for the Bread that came from heaven to nourish the whole world. According to church historians, the focus of these early communion services was not on Jesus' death, but rather on Jesus' friendship, his presence made palpable among his followers by the tastes, sounds, and smells he loved.²

² Rachel Held Evans, *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* (Nashville, TN: Nelson Books, 2015), 215.

We Hold in Prayer...

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 in transition, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer
where we are, as we are, along this changing path
entrusting the Spirit's moving among us
and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...**

Prayers of Gratitude & Thanksgiving

**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...**

With Bev Parsons (27th) and Louise Mason (30th) celebrating late July birthdays.

With Liz in celebration of Maxwell's 12th birthday and gratitude for his and Rascal's companionship and blessing in her life.

With Louise and Barbara in joy and thanksgiving for their children who grant them such goodness and care with visits and calls.

With Clif for the pleasure of getting out to golf – even when the game doesn't quite go his way. 😊

With Harry in anticipation of programs he's signed up for at the Senior Center.

With Bruce, Harry, Barbara, Bev, and Louise for Pastor Holly and Pastor Daryn's calls, visits, and the Prayer Resource.

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....

Prayers of Personal Concern, Healing, Solace, & Courage

**Faithful God, you know me inside and out,
all my hopes and dreams, fears and failures.**

**You hear your children cry out for healing and consolation, courage and strength.
Send your Spirit in the sharing of the concerns of our hearts as I pray...**

With Ernie and Harry both continuing cancer treatment.

With Bev for Trevor's wellbeing with ongoing medical appointments.

With Marty in her ongoing recovery at home from stroke and Chris and Jean in their daily care and companioning her.

With Liz as she continues to navigate disability paperwork and housing concerns.

With Anne recovering at home from an infection and Sherry in her ongoing care and accompaniment with her mom.

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

Prayers in Our Transitions

God of Life, in all of life's turns – planned and unexpected – you are there.

**For the transitions that are hard for me to bear,
grant me the strength to be vulnerable and seek loving accompaniment.**

For the changes I anticipate, grant me hope and wisdom.

**Trusting your Spirit is moving to prepare a place in fellowship and community for
each beloved member of our First Baptist congregation, I pray...**

With Marty who keeps the congregation and our next steps in her prayers.

With Bev, Anne, and Dorothy for Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly that their time away with their families in August be restful and restorative.

With Pastor Holly for our members as they are encouraged to reach out and care for one another specifically during August as we move forward in hope, encouragement, and compassion.

With Dorothy, Anne, and Pastor Holly as members discern their particular needs and calling to new communities of faith through prayer, visiting, and hope for future service and care.

With Pastor Daryn, Pastor Holly for the Administration Ministry's ongoing prayerful and careful work in this stage of *Creative Callings*.

Prayers for the Community, Nation, & World

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...

With Bev for the urgent need for people to change hearts and minds and get vaccinated to tamp down the spread of COVID variants and avoidable hospitalizations, suffering, and deaths.

With the people of Germany devastated, injured, and killed by severe flooding.

With the Western United States enduring what is estimated to be the worst heat and drought in the region in 120 years – the land, plants, animals, fragile ecosystems, and human communities – suffering from the unrelenting heat, dryness, and fires.

With the people of South Africa, Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Colombia living with political and social unrest, fear, riots, assassination, and insecurity.

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

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

+++ Offer your own prayers here. +++

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

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.

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.

One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource & Calls of Caring August Edition

The Transition Prayer Resource for August 1 to Labor Day weekend will be one mailing! Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly will pause weekly Calls of Caring and the Transition Prayer Resource during August to enable them time to renew and share much-delayed time with family. *Watch the August Edition for an invitation to care for each other just as Christians have done since the Early Church!*

During August, if you have an urgent pastoral concern, contact the Church Office by phone (781-400-5867) or email (churchoffice@fbcneedham.org).

Creative Callings Year 2, Session 3

ADMINISTRATION STEWARDSHIP & PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT *through* TRANSITION

With the congregational vote on Sunday, June 27, 2021, the Administration Ministry is tasked with developing a plan for closing the church. We now shift to the third session of Year Two with *Creative Callings*. As the Administration Ministry continues to meet to develop a plan to bring before the congregation, each member of the congregation is also encouraged to do your own good work of prayerfully discerning what community of faith you may wish to visit or consider joining. Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly are available to offer spiritual and pastoral accompaniment and reflection upon request.

Offering

Your continued financial support of the daily work and ministries of FBC Needham is vital. Offerings can be turned in at the church office, through the church website online, or via mail. May the act of giving be a spiritual practice that accompanies your daily prayer and worship.

Mail Checks to:

First Baptist Church in Needham
858 Great Plain Avenue,
Needham MA 02492

Online:

Go to <https://www.fbcneedham.org>
Click the **Take Action** link & follow the directions.

Make checks payable to: First Baptist Church in Needham.
Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check.
