

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
www.fbcneedham.org

Worship and Prayer Resource Sunday, July 26, 2020

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

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 19



A Letter from your Pastoral Team

Dear FBC Needham Community,

So many of you have treasured these worship resources each week. You have told us how much you appreciate the opportunity to stay connected to your church community through prayer, song, reflection, and the beautiful photos Pastor Holly includes. We give thanks for Pastor Holly, for her ingenuity, dedication, and the time and joy that have gone into these resources for our community. As soon as this pandemic arose and we became aware we would not be able to worship in person at the church, Holly volunteered to create and distribute these remarkable worship guides. Holly, you are a treasure and a gift to our church. Thank you for all you have done to this point, and all that you continue to do to minister to our congregation and the wider readership of our community.

Recently, Holly has developed some pain in her hands that needs some grace and healing attention. We will afford Holly and her hands the rest and time necessary for medical evaluation, healing, and treatment. Holly, our prayers accompany you as you seek the care you need.

Our plan moving forward is to continue to produce a resource for at-home prayer and worship each week that allows us to stay prayerfully and meaningfully connected to one another, though the format will likely be abbreviated in length and volume. Bear with us as we navigate this transition and discern a resource format that will provide for the needs and continued connection of this community, and please keep Pastor Holly in your prayers. Blessings and the peace of Christ be with you all!

In Christ,
Pastor Daryn

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.

Scriptures for this Week

Choose as many of these scriptures to accompany you throughout the week as you would like. You may choose to read one a day, or focus on one for the entire week. What stands out as you read them? What word or idea “shimmers” for you? Are there themes or ideas of connection between the scriptures, or that speak to particular circumstances you are experiencing? Where do you find good news in these passages?

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

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

BENZENHAFER

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Hear my prayer, O Lord.

I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

Prayerful Meditation

“...prayer and meditation can be thought of as the creation of a mental space in which the energies of dreaming and the concerns of waking life are invited to meet each other and to have a mutual, open-ended conversation.”¹

Enter into prayer trusting that God who walks beside you in your waking also accompanies you through your dreaming - keeping vigil, ever present.

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, 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...

With Clif and Anthony and PJ, Marty, Dorothy, Pastor Holly, Harry, Louise and I'm sure many others, we give thanks for the ability to stay cool in these sweltering days. For air conditioning, and cool breezes ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Clif, Pastor Holly, and Pastor Daryn - for the beauty of gardens and nature, for quiet places to sit and reflect, and for the



¹ Kelly Bulkeley, *Transforming Dreams: Learning Spiritual Lessons from the Dreams You Never Forget* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000).

anticipation of new growth and plants yet to bloom ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Marty, we give thanks for a safe and comfortable place to call home, particularly in this time where staying home is something we must do much of the time ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We pray for healing and for comfort **for all those affected by COVID-19**. With Andrew and Dorothy we pray for the development of a safe vaccine, that it will be carefully manufactured and distributed effectively and efficiently toward an end to this virus. For **those whose loved ones number among the 143,000 lives lost** to COVID-19 in the United States, we hold them in our hearts and grieve these losses with them ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Kathy and Katie, Louise, Liz and Ernie, we pray **for our our church family**, for their health and well-being. With Dorothy and Marty we pray that folks in our communities will continue to conscientiously mask and practice social distancing, and that our local and national leadership will encourage practices and policies that lend themselves to life-giving results and outcomes across our nation - for overall good sense and good decision making. With Bev and Anthony, we pray for places reopening with caution - that necessary steps are implemented to ensure the health and safety of everyone such that the number of cases will decline. We give thanks for the improvements we have seen to this end since April ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Harry, Clif and Anthony, Marty, Bev, Dorothy, Liz, Elaine, Andrew and Pastor Daryn our community continues to hold our dear church members **Ernie** and **Helen** in our hearts, as well as precious neighbors to our community, **Ann Cosgrove** and **Sal LaFace**. We also add prayers this week for Clif's longtime friend, **Frank Brown**, who was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. God, we pray for your abiding grace and presence as these beloved ones move through the struggles and discomfort of cancer and the treatments and surgeries, scans and tests that accompany the illness. For relief from nausea and exhaustion, for peace and recovery, for sustenance and support in this difficult time ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

For **Helen** as she recovers from a related surgery this past Monday and for **Ernie** who has a fourth, and possibly final, upcoming chemotherapy treatment ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

Prayers for wisdom and guidance for the radiologists and oncologists providing care, diagnoses, and treatment plans ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

For the effectiveness of treatments, God, we pray, and we give thanks and celebrate with **Ernie** that the radiation seems to have helped significantly shrink a lump on the back of his neck ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Andrew we continue to give thanks for his sister, **Wendy's**, recovery from treatments of radiation and surgery ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We also hold Andrew's sister **Wendy** in prayer as she and her family recover from and repair damages from recent violent windstorms that passed through Colorado. Prayers for their safety as they anticipate more weather events this week ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Pastor Daryn, we ask for traveling mercies **for all those navigating travel** during this time of COVID-19. For all the added logistics and planning, for all the folks coming from different places to be together - we pray they are safe and that their gatherings are carefully conducted. **For all of those who cannot be with their loved ones**, we pray for their hearts - that the sadness of separation and homesickness would be eased, and that in their time of distancing folks would remain healthy until their next meeting ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We offer traveling mercies along with Andrew for his sister, **Jan**, who is traveling to New Hampshire tomorrow and will be spending time in New England ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

For all the prayers and support offered and held in this community ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

For the resources that connect us, that hold us together and allow us to hold one another in this time - Zoom, mailed and online worship and prayer resources, live streamed services and events, and Facetime calls ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We give thanks for Pastor Holly and Pastor Daryn who have worked diligently to connect our community safely and effectively in this time apart, and for Pastor Daryn's facilitation

of a socially distanced outdoor gathering that is full of joy and creativity. For their dedication, determination, and attentiveness ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*** For folks beyond our community and folks new to First Baptist who have found meaning in the worship resources provided each week and the Thursday gatherings ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We pray for **Pastor Holly** who is addressing pain in her hand that is in need of healing and care, that the appropriate course of treatment will be determined and implemented judiciously ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Harry we pray for family and friends mourning the loss of **Robert Hong**, a friend of Harry's and fellow veteran who flew with the Flying Tigers. May his memory be eternal ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Liz, we pray for her cousin and her cousin's cat, **Billy**, whose kidneys are failing. For Billy's life that is so precious and dear, and for the ones who love him ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

God, we offer gratitude for life, and for each and every way we are a blessing through our living. This week we celebrate **Pastor Holly** and **Andrew** who share a birthday on July 22nd. Blessings on this new year of your lived journey! With Clif we give thanks for the lives of a **niece and nephew** who just celebrated their 50th birthdays. We celebrate with Liz the 11th birthday of **Maxwell**, her Boston Terrier companion. Happy birthday, Maxwell! And for those celebrating the birth of new life into this world - for John's **grandchild due this week ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

For the health and safe delivery of the baby, and the peace and well being of the mother, John's daughter, **Eliza ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

As we think about welcoming new life into the world, and the kind of world we want to create and be, with Liz we pray for an end to violence and oppression ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

Help us to be understanding of one another, and to offer grace and patience instead of judgment and insult. Help us to be better listeners and witnesses of others and their experiences, and give us the courage and integrity to admit when we have made mistakes, when we are in need of repentance as individuals and as a nation to address those wrongs

that we might live more fully in the light of your love toward all people ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

While we value history and seek its wisdom so as not to repeat our mistakes, we ask that you would help us to avoid glorifying and honoring legacies or ideologies rooted in hatred, violence, bigotry or racism and any symbols that might accompany or encourage them. With Pastor Daryn we give thanks for the courage and resolve of her hometown's (Lexington, NC) City Council that signed a resolution to remove a Confederate monument from their city's uptown square ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We pray forgiveness for the hurtful symbols, actions, beliefs, ideologies, policies, and practices we knowingly or unknowingly allow to stand for far too long in our communities and in our hearts. Give us the eyes to see beyond what we have done toward what we can be and what you are calling us to become ... ***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.

Hymn

My Life is In Your Hands

Gospel

arr. Kirk Franklin

Sing, read aloud, or listen to Kirk Franklin and God's Property's recording of this gospel offering:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ_f7qryWJo&list=OLAK5uy_ka4Mo1PDARRGkoKBh0fG2AVpsv1Yvih50&index=2.

You don't have to worry, and don't you be afraid.
Joy comes in the morning; troubles they don't last always.
For there's a friend in Jesus who will wipe your tears away,
and if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say...

*Oh, I know that I can make it.
I know that I can stand.
No matter what may come my way,
my life is in your hands.*

*With Jesus I can take it
With him I know I can stand
No matter what may come my way,
My life is in your hands (chorus)*

So when the test and trials, they seem to get you down,
and all your friends and loved ones are nowhere to be found,
remember there's a friend in Jesus, who will wipe your tears away.
And if your heart is broken, just lift your hands and say.

Offering

During this time of offering, consider going right now to <https://www.fbcneedham.org> 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

(Picture in your mind's eye the faces of beloved souls with whom you would share the peace of Christ in person if you could, and offer each one your blessing of 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.

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Announcements

Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!

With the gradual re-opening of the Needham Children's Center DayCare, our church office has re-opened 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.

Come Worship with Us in God's Green Sanctuary!

Thursday, July 23rd at 6:00pm ~ *Reservations Required!*

Preregister ON THURSDAY to attend worship at

www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries

Pastor Daryn is leading a trial worship experience outdoors on the lawn of First Baptist Church for the first four Thursday evenings of July at 6:00pm (July 2nd, July 9th, July 16th & July 23rd).^{*} We are delighted to creatively navigate this interesting moment in our lives of faith. Just a word of anticipation, this worship experience will not be traditional! Due to evidence that suggests group singing and collective responses to be unsafe, we will be experimenting with other forms of praise - drumming, streamers, clapping, etc. We trust that our praise, in whatever form it takes, will be glorifying and pleasing to God so long as we are also committed to the forms of praise God most cares about - care and justice for our neighbors (Isaiah 58, Amos 5:21-24). And in keeping with our care for you, we will continue to mail out and post online (www.fbcneedham.org) our At-Home Worship Resources, and will continue to reserve Sunday mornings for our Community Calls of Caring.

We are stressing the health and well-being of everyone, so please understand **social distancing and mask wearing are a requirement for all participants!** Mingling before and after worship is discouraged. If you have been sick or are not feeling well, stay home. If you are in a vulnerable population and have underlying health conditions, or do not feel safe joining, please do not feel pressured to attend; God is with you wherever you are. Please do what feels right and safe for you and for others. If we realize we cannot accomplish this worship experience in a safe manner that upholds the dignity and health of all gathered, we will cancel until another time presents itself.

We will NOT GATHER in the event of inclement weather (thunderstorms or heavy rain). An attempt will be made to notify all preregistered attendees by 5pm on the day of worship if services are cancelled.

July 23rd is our final outdoor worship service for July and August. We will attempt to resume outdoor worship on Thursday evenings in September for as long as weather and our communal health permits us to gather.

Needham Bricks for Justice Artist Installation at FBC Needham

FBC Needham is honored and humbled to host a *Needham Bricks for Justice* art installation memorializing the 90 black lives lost to police excessive force and violence so far in 2020. Ninety bricks were laid out on our front walk and steps, each bearing the name or picture of an individual lost to the same in our recent past.

When church is at its best, it holds the stories, witness, and testimony of its communities and allows space for those stories to speak, to engage, and transform hearts, attitudes and bodies toward a more loving and healing presence and witness in the world. We hope this installation does just that - that it bears witness to the stories of our communities, that it calls hearts and minds to engage and be transformed toward more loving policy, loving action, and loving encounter in all that we do, and is done in and through us. We are honored to hold space for the witness for justice of these artists, and especially to hold space for the stories of the lives memorialized in and through their art. Thank you, **Charlotte Caron**, and to your team of artists and all those who contributed to this witness for justice in our community.

<https://bricksforjustice.wixsite.com/needham>

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. If you or someone you know are in need of reaching out to them or if you want to learn how you can best volunteer to help at this time, go to their website at: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>. ***Please note: They ARE NOT accepting drop-off donations at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.***

Generic Ministry is back to work with safety and health precautions in place ... here's how we can help!



**GENERIC
MINISTRY**

CARING FOR BOSTON'S HOMELESS

Donate Supplies and/or Organize a Collection of Supplies

We are looking for:

- Backpacks
- Paper Shopping Bags
- Adult T-Shirts
- Masks
- Travel-Size Toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and wipes are top priorities).

ONE-CLICK ORDERING is available via our AMAZON Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/.../w.../3HF40DALVPQ27/ref=cm_wl_huc_view

**** All donations can be left on or delivered directly to front porches at 19 Rae Avenue and 82 Deerfield Road - OR for First Baptist Church Needham contributions, 67 Mayo Avenue**

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