

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

Worship and Prayer

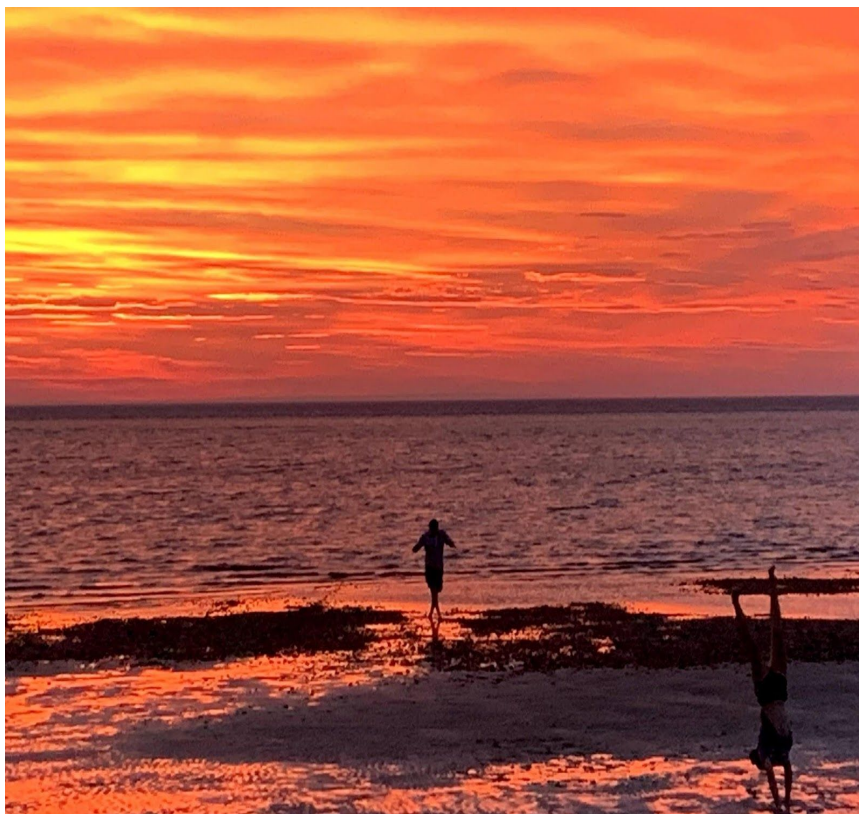
Resource

Sunday, August 02, 2020

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

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 20



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?

Scriptures for this Week (cont'd)

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

Song of Response

Waymaker

Written by: Sinach

Cover arr. Leeland

Sing, read aloud, or listen to Leeland's cover of Nigerian gospel singer, Sinach's "Waymaker":

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV_2H9xD0

You are here, moving in our midst

I worship You,

I worship You.

You are here, working in this
place

I worship You,

I worship You. (repeat)

Chorus:

You are Way maker,
miracle worker, promise keeper,

Light in the darkness,

My God, that is who You are.
(repeat)

You are here, touching every heart

I worship You,

I worship You.

You are here, healing every heart

I worship You,

I worship You.

You are here, turning lives around

I worship You,

I worship You.

You are here, mending every heart

I worship You,

I worship You.

(Chorus)

(Bridge)

Even when I don't see it,

You're working.

Even when I

don't feel it, You're working.

You never stop,

You never stop working.

You never stop,

You never stop working. (repeat)

(Back to Chorus)

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

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

“...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.

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

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 Harry we give thanks **for the fruits of our gardens**. For cucumbers and other delicious veggies, for the food we have to eat, and **for enough ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

For **all those struggling for basic needs**, God we pray your provision, and that we would have the courage and opportunity to shape policy and contribute graciously and generously to the needs of those around us without judgment ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif and Pastor Holly, we pray for **all those affected by Hurricane Hanna**; for **those who have lost loved ones**, be a gentle presence, Lord ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif we give thanks for **the work of the Senior Center in Needham** that continues in the midst of the pandemic; for the publication of "The Compass" - the recent newsletter distribution, for opportunities to volunteer, grocery deliveries, and for online programming offered each week, we give thanks ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

With Anthony, we give thanks **for all the frontline healthcare and emergency workers and providers**. For their endurance, adequate PPE, and for their safety and protection, we pray ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Barbara, we pray for healing and for comfort **for all those affected by COVID-19**. God, we mourn the over 150,000 lives lost to COVID-19 in the United States; we know that each one was a beloved child of your very own. We hold their

families and loved ones in our hearts, and pray for wisdom from above to guide our leadership and policy makers so that the unnecessary loss of life might be mitigated ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly we pray for **Kadrian Washington**, a high school classmate who recently checked into the hospital with one lung clouded due to COVID-19. We pray that our community's prayers might be a blessing to her as she battles this disease ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

Help us, Lord, distinguish false narratives from truth, lies from fact - help us to trust in the wisdom and informed guidance of those scientists, infectious disease experts and medical workers who have dedicated their lives to the betterment and care of our world, and not to be led astray by those who would manipulate or mislead for political gain ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Beverly we pray for folks to use **good sense**, and for **wisdom** in our social distancing and mask wearing. Help us remember the safety of one another and put that first as we travel and visit beaches and pools - give us **strength and resolve in our commitment to social distance**, to keep gatherings small, and use caution when we are visiting beaches, or any other place ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn, Beverly, and Stan, we pray **for all those making decisions about the return to school in the fall**. We recognize that these are very complex matters and that there are no easy solutions. God we pray your guidance upon those in positions of leadership and discernment and we ask that **the safety and well-being of teachers and students** would be paramount in their assessment ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God we ask your peace and comfort be with **Pastor Holly** and the family of **Leanne Brown McCaffrey**, a childhood friend of Holly's who passed away from cancer. Her absence will be especially felt by her husband and three children. Provide Leanne's family the balm they need to sooth their aching hearts ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God our prayers continually pour forth for **Ernie Steeves** and **Helen Turner**, for their treatment and healing as they battle cancer. We ask for relief from the uneasiness that accompanies their diagnoses, and the radiation and chemotherapy that are a part of their treatment plans ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God with Ernie, we give thanks **for the effectiveness of the radiation treatments** he has received, and we give thanks **for the nights when rest is restorative and the mornings that provide respite from discomfort**. We offer praise and thanksgiving **for the community and family support** through these difficult times ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We pray along with Ernie **for courage, endurance, and strength to make it through** his next two rounds of chemo. God, give **Ernie** what he needs to get through each day, and to sense your presence with him in each moment ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue as a community to hold **Sal Laface** and **Ann Cosgrove**, neighbors of our community who are also in the midst of cancer treatments ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew, we pray traveling mercies upon his sister, **Jan**, who is in New Hampshire and traveling in New England. We pray he is able to visit with her while she is nearby ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we celebrate with **Gretchen Leary McIntire** who completed a Home Health Aid course at Quincy College, earning an A on her final! We also send encouragement as she plans to enroll in Southern New Hampshire University in the fall ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Gretchen, we pray **for all those struggling financially** during this pandemic. We pray for all those out of work and unable to access unemployment ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan, we pray for **Betsy** and for knee troubles that have become a nuisance, and we ask that a way be made for her to seek treatment safely in this era of COVID-19 ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan, we give thanks **for time away**, for Berkshire retreats and early morning bike rides and **for the recreational activities that bring joy and rest to our lives**; with the Stylianopoulos family we give thanks for impromptu trips to the beach - for beautiful beach sunsets, for kayaking trips and the many animals seen on a recent kayak on the Charles River - for deer, and blue herons, for geese and ducks, for dragonflies and others of God's critters; **for the beauty of nature ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We continue to 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 ...*

For **Dorothy Kinne**, God, we give thanks! We celebrate her faithful witness and legacy of her 99 years of life as she celebrates her birthday August 7th. God **for the blessing of Dot Kinne ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We pray with **John** for the **health and safe delivery of his grandchild**, scheduled to be induced July 28th if not here by the 27th, and hold the mother, **Eliza**, in our hearts and prayers ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to celebrate with John's family as they welcome these new little ones into their fold, for this little one born, and for John's twin grandbabies yet to be born in another six weeks (or so) ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Louise, we hold **our world and our church community** in prayer, and pray that all might become familiar with happiness and good health ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Kathy and Katie Johnson, we pray **for our First Baptist family** and send **blessings to all in this precious community**, and we particularly remember this week **those who we have not been able to reached by phone or email**, or have not

been in touch recently - **for their continued well-being we pray**, and we ask that our prayers and blessings might be felt and known by them ... **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 **The Church of Christ in Every Age**

WAREHAM
arr. Green and Pratt

Sing, read aloud, or listen to "The Church of Christ In Every Age" sung by the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (MI) Virtual Choir, James Biery, director and organist:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBUAQKGyc5A>

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.

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.

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>



Come Worship with Us in God's Green Sanctuary!
Outdoor Worship will Resume in September.
Stay tuned for more information about these services.

~ Reservations Required! ~

Preregister ON the THURSDAY of Worship to attend at the following link:
www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries

Pastor Daryn is leading a worship experience outdoors on the lawn of First Baptist Church on Thursdays at 6:00pm. Our gatherings in July were life-giving and full of the Spirit, and everyone did their part keeping each other safe. Thank you all! We look forward to gathering again in September for as long as weather and our communal health permits us to gather.

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 was our final outdoor worship service for July and August. See you in September!

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.*



(Graphic from Needham Community Council Website, <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org/>)

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**

Text and Photo Attributions: “Sky on Fire” by Daryn Stylianopoulos, taken at Chapin Memorial Beach in Dennis, MA, July 2020; “Outdoor Worship - 07-16-2020” by Daryn Stylianopoulos. Photo taken at the Needham Bricks for Justice Installation by Daryn Stylianopoulos. Use with permission.