

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, August 09, 2020

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

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 21

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 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33



Song of Response **Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult**

GALILEE

Words: Cecil F. Alexander

Music: William H. Jude

Sing, read aloud, or listen to "Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult" as sung by the congregation of Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvxXy9zUbc>

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

Jesus calls us - by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

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.

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...

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

We celebrate with **John and JoAnn Crimmings** as they welcome their precious granddaughter into the world! **Ella Rose Crimmings** was born Tuesday, July 28th, weighing 9lbs 13 oz! We pray for parents, **Eliza and Michael**, and for big sisters **Abigail and Hannah**, as their family continues to navigate this wonder-full time of adjustment and transition. We wish you joy and abundant blessings. Welcome, Ella! ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*



With John and Stan we pray for grandchildren soon to be born into the world, and for the health of their mothers and the continued well being and peace of their families. For John's daughter-in-law **Elizabeth** who is due to give birth to twins in approximately five weeks. For Stan's daughter **Christie** whose baby is due in a month, and for their families ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

For those who have celebrated recent birthdays, for **John Crimmings, Holly Benzenhafer, Andrew Thoresen, Louise Mason, Beverly Parsons, Arturo Bagley, Lindsay Toto** and **Dorothy Kinne**, God, we offer our deepest gratitude for them and the life and joy they bring to our community. We continue to give thanks to God for our friends with upcoming August birthdays: **Elaine Pipes, Helen Turner** and **Jessica Day**. They are each one a blessing to this world ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Louise we give thanks **for flowers blooming** in the yard ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow*. And with Daryn, Clif and Andrew, we ask **for patience** with the critters that eat them, and with the endless tasks of pruning and weeding ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Liz, Beverly and Andrew, we continue to pray for **Pastor Holly**, for the healing of her hand and relief from pain ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...* and with Holly we give thanks that she has experienced some relief in the past week - the

sharp pain she was feeling has lessened significantly ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Pastor Daryn, Fayrah and Anna, we offer a prayer of celebration and joy that **Katie** is receiving encouragement in her passion and love for acting; Katie recently signed with an agency in New York! ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Pastor Daryn, Pastor Holly, Harry, Clif and Anthony, Bev, Dorothy, Liz, Stan and the whole of our church family, we continue to pray for **Ernie Steeves** and **Helen Turner**, beloved members of our community who are struggling with cancer diagnoses and treatments. God when they are exhausted, help them claim and receive the rest they need without guilt or shame. We pray for an ease to their discomfort. God remind them they are deeply loved by you and by this community that that you are with them always - in and through each and every moment. May our prayers be a blessing and source of encouragement to them ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...***

With Clif we remember **Rev. Irv Cummings** in this time. Irv is a former pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church, and is dear to the heart of so many in our Baptist community and beyond. We pray **for Irv**, who is living out the end of his life with cancer and is in a nursing home at this time, we pray **for his comfort**, that God would ease his mind and heart, and reassure him of the love and peace of Christ that surpass knowledge and understanding - and the presence of God who is with us always. We pray **for Irv's family** as they negotiate the complications of distanced visiting with loved ones in assisted living facilities and medical settings. We pray **for their peace and strength** in this difficult time ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...***

With Anne and Sherrie Wile, we pray for **Bruce**, who was confirmed positive with COVID-19, though asymptomatic. For his healing and recovery we pray, and for his continued good natured attitude and positive spirit, we give thanks ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...***

With Barbara we pray **for all of our neighbors and church folk at Wingate, and those who are living in nursing and assisted living facilities** during this time. We

pray for their health and for the well-being and endurance of **all the staff and health workers and aids** that assist our loved ones day in and day out ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Barbara and Bruce **for the opportunity for socially distanced visits with family and friends**, and we pray that more opportunities will come in a safe and timely manner... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

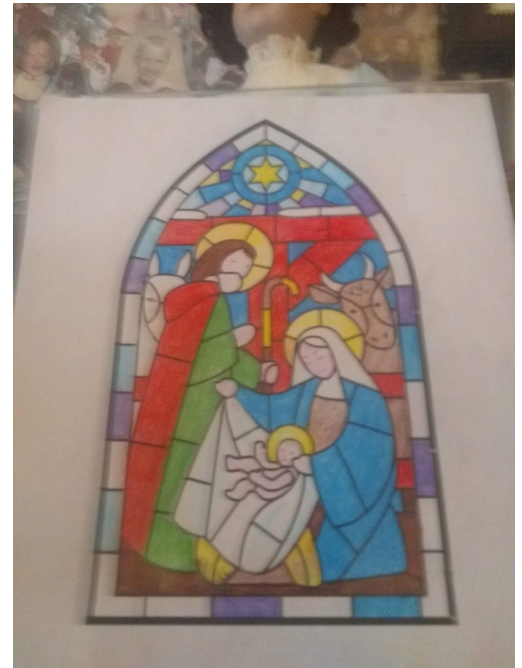
With Barbara for the joy of her grandson, **James**, we give thanks, and for other things that bring joy in the midst of a pandemic, for artistic and creative moments and coloring pages ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Marty and Beverly, Anthony and Barbara, we pray **for all those who have died, for those who are sick and for those who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19.** We

hold them in our hearts as we regret and repent of the rising numbers of cases and the negligence with which so many have handled their response to this virus. God, **help us to be better**, help us to **do better about caring for our neighbors** and keeping one another safe. **Help us to take this seriously as the threat** it is to our own health and those we love. As Marty Fasset reminds us this week, "We are our brother's keeper." Strengthen our resolve **to care and to dare** to socially distance and wear our masks, to practice good hand hygiene, and to quarantine ourselves when the situation calls for it ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

Speaking of masks, we offer gratitude for **BeKindNeedham** who has distributed free cloth masks to senior citizens and others in Needham, including some of our very own church crew. Thank you, BeKindNeedham! ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We pray for **Pastor Daryn and family** as they travel to visit family in North Carolina. **Traveling mercies** and a safe and life-giving journey to them. We pray for their **continued health** and celebrate this **opportunity to see family** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*



With Andrew we give thanks that **his family traveled safely to New England** and pray he has **the opportunity to see his sister** while they are in the area ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif and Liz we pray **for harmony and political unity and togetherness** as we navigate the pandemic. We need to support, value and encourage one another more than ever. We pray folks are able to **put partisanship aside for the good of humanity and our world**. We pray **for peace among the people of this world**, and that **folks will adopt the practice of treating one another with dignity and respect** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Katie, we pray this day **for all whose bodies and lives are not respected, for those used and objectified without regard for consent**. Particularly this day we pray for **Katie's friend**, a recent victim of sexual assault. God, may she find the necessary resources to help her as she seeks support, justice, clarity, healing and wholeness. Remind her that her worth is not bound up or defined by that incident or any other incident of abuse, and that she is and will always be your beloved child ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Andrew we pray for **Wren**, as she is working through a difficult time in her life and has sole care of Baby **Carmen**. May she receive help for this leg of her journey, and every ounce of strength she needs to carry on ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Liz we pray **for her cousin's cat, Billy**, and **for her cousin who is heartbroken** to lose a feline companion of so many years. **For all the animal companions** that bring us joy and comprise and complete our families, we offer our gratitude, and for the times when we have to so goodbye, God, give us peace and take good care of them on the other side of the rainbow bridge ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Pastor Daryn and Liz, we give thanks that Pastor Daryn's family dog, **Deacon**, continues to do well. We still do not have any concrete answers or diagnoses, but we give thanks that she seems to feel herself and is in good spirits ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Beverly, Louise, Clif, Anthony, Marty and Harry we give thanks for **Willis Haviland Carrier** who invented modern **air conditioning**. We give thanks for the ability to stay cool in these hot summer weeks ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif and Anthony we give thanks for **cool summer treats** like Halo Halo, a Filipino layered dessert of ice cream, crushed ice, coconut, beans, fruit, tapioca, plantains, milk and sugar. Yum! For all the cool and delightful goodness we look forward to eating in the summertime - from Watermelon to Halo Halo ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Harry we give thanks for **all ways people care for us**, and specifically all the **food he has received** from the Senior Center and from friends and family that bring him meals and good vegetables ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Marty we offer gratitude for those who call to check in on us like **Clif Holbrook**, and **Beverly Parsons**. For **beloved friends that make sure we are doing okay** and that we have what we need. For **phone calls, texts, and emails that brighten the day and lighten the load** ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We also hold **Marty Fassett** in our hearts as this past week was the anniversary of her sister's passing. God we give thanks for **the ways loved ones imprint themselves upon our hearts forever**, and we ask **your mercy** upon us in the difficulty of realizing that we are not here forever. We pray for **your comfort and peace** when we long for our dearly beloved ones again, and when the aching of their absence is overwhelming ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

For the life of Marty's sister, Regis "Rege" Armida Black, we give thanks. May her memory be eternal ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Stan we give **thanks for our planet**, for this earth we all inhabit. We remember that to care for our earth is a deeply spiritual practice and act of faith - to care for God's creation. We pray **we are strengthened to do what we can each and every day** through recycling and being mindful of the energy we are using - electricity and fossil fuels, among others, and to vote for and actualize plans and policies, and

restrictions on industry, that would help in efforts to protect and guard the well being of this good earth and all of its creatures, including ourselves, on a larger scale ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Gretchen we **rejoice in First Baptist's collective commitment to follow Jesus** as best we are able, and our practice of honoring each individual's choice and decision to do so within our community. We celebrate that Gretchen has chosen to make such a profession and decision as a public witness to her faith and the journey of her heart - that **Gretchen has requested baptism in the Christian faith.**

Hallelujah! We rejoice with her and will accompany and support her along her journey of following Jesus Christ. We do not yet have all the details mapped out or dates set, but are aiming for sometime in September. It will most likely be a Zoomed or outdoor baptism. We will keep you posted! In the meantime, offer Gretchen your **prayers as she continues in her faith journey with Jesus, held by the love of community.**

With Marty Fassett we give thanks **for the life of Congressman John Lewis.** We give thanks for his witness, for his life-long march for justice and equality in our nation and in our communities. For this good natured, bold hearted servant for civil rights, and for his faithful witness to the work of Jesus - to care for the poor and downtrodden, to give voice and power and the assurance of worth and belovedness to the disenfranchised - we give thanks. A high school classmate of Pastor Daryn's, Kassaundra Lockhart, wrote this:

“For hours, I watched news coverage and read tweets. I was engulfed in receiving confirmation that the man who had quietly found his way into my heart was indeed who I always knew he was: kind, caring, loving, supportive, thoughtful, and trustworthy.

Every interview confirmed it. Every tweet reaffirmed it. And the six-day celebration of his life from Alabama to our Nation's Capital to Atlanta solidified it. He was a trailblazer, a force, and a movement.

And he was committed to making good trouble.

And that's what's resonated with me the most.

Although there is no definition for it, in the world it means to disrupt the status quo; to call people out for their prejudices, immoral practices, and complicitness; to lead by example; to essentially let your actions do the talking.

That was Congressman John Lewis. That's who he was."

For Rep. John Lewis, and his commitment to Good Trouble, we give thanks. May his memory be eternal ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

Marty Fassett was deeply moved by the memorial service for Congressman John Lewis. She found the musical rendering of "It is Well With My Soul" particularly meaningful. Not only is it a message of peace and comfort that she leans on daily, but it was also a favorite hymn of her husband, Rev. Jack Fassett. **For the pieces of music, and prayer woven throughout music, that touch our hearts and lives with meaning and deep resonance,** we give God thanks and praise ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

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

It is Well With My Soul

VILLE DU HAVRE

Words: Horatio G. Spafford

Music: Philip P. Bliss

Sing, read aloud, or listen to "It is Well with My Soul" as sung by Dr. Wintley Phipps:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-7EuOeaKOc>

Dr. Phipps recently sang a rendition of this very hymn at a Memorial Service of Rep. John Lewis at the U.S. Capitol that was deeply moving to many, including our very own Marty Fasset. You can watch and listen to that moving rendering at the link below (1:23:14 - 1:28:12):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILlClOascbA&t=5304s>

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend:
“Even so” - it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

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.

Hymns under copyright are used by permission under CCLI # 763542.

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!
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: “Clif’s Sailboat” by Daryn Stylianopoulos, taken at the home of Clif Holbrook; “Full Double Rainbow at Ocean Park, ME” by Daryn Stylianopoulos; “Ella Rose Crimmings’ Grand Debut” a photo courtesy of John Crimmings; “A Coloring Page of the Holy Family” by Barbara Arnold. Use with permission.