

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, August 16, 2020

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

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 22

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 45:1-15

Psalm 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Matthew 15:10-28

Song of Response For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

arr. Shirley Irena Murray

*Sing, read aloud, or listen to "For Everyone Born" as sung by Community Christian Church,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHc5kOapGho>*

Verse 1:

For everyone born, a place at the table
For everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star overhead.

Chorus:

God will delight when we are creators of justice, and joy, compassion and peace.
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice ... justice and joy.

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 Louise, Ernie and Stan, we pray for the continued health of **church friends and family** and give thanks that so many have been able to stay healthy in this pandemic ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

We give thanks that **Pastor Daryn** is able to join family in North Carolina for vacation and quality time, and offer traveling mercies for the **Stylianopoulos family** ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

We are grateful for **Dorothy Kinne** and give thanks that she was celebrated. For family that gathered for a birthday feast and a wonderful and joyful celebration, we give thanks ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Pastor Holly we pray for **those unsettled by the earthquake in North Carolina**, particularly in times that are already turbulent for so many, and we give thanks that no one was hurt ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Clif and Pastor Holly we pray for all **those making decisions about education**, and for all the **students and teachers** navigating this time of differently patterned educational structures and platforms. God, give us the creative energy and wisdom to make life-giving changes to the ways we function, govern, educate, and implement policies and decisions. Give us the **wisdom to prioritize people over dollars** ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

For all the **students moving for school** - as they navigate earlier than anticipated arrivals in an attempt to quarantine ahead of school, as they incur the hefty financial burdens of tuition and rent, and as they prepare to

engage in educational experiences that may end up distanced and virtual, and in some circumstances inconsistent - and are certain to be different than they have ever experienced before ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For **young folks starting college this fall** and arriving on campus during these uncertain times, and for their families who are providing support during this significant time of transition - for **David Walker** (Muriel Harris's grandson, and Joanne Walker's son) whose **son** begins college in North Carolina this fall ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For **high school juniors and seniors** navigating their final years of high school - and for **those entering school** for their first years of formal education - as they navigate the expectations and transitional moments of these formative years, we pray they are held in love and supportive communities ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan, we pray for **families choosing new and creative ways of educating their children** - for his grandson who this fall will be part of an experimental homeschooling cohort, and for the **parents** who are stepping into the role of educators ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif and Anthony we pray for the **people living in the Philippines** - we give thanks that Anthony's family is safe and healthy at present, while we also acknowledge the difficult circumstances, the lack of good health care and economic and job opportunities for their homeland in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Dorothy, we continue to pray for **a safe and effective vaccine and an end to this pandemic** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly, we remember her friend, **Kadrian**, who was discharged from the hospital, but who continues to struggle with breathing and symptoms of COVID-19. **Kadrian's mother** is sick as well, and is doing poorly. God **grant them healing and the peace** that only you can give in such difficult times ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew, we offer continued prayers for **Wren** as she navigates motherhood and the emotional stressors and challenges that accompany her new role. May our prayers be a blessing of support and encouragement to her in this time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif, we give thanks **for the activities that feed our souls and bodies**, and give us joy in our living - for golf and swimming, for gardening and beachcombing ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

For **vacation and rest**, with Pastor Daryn, Clif, Andrew, and Nancy we give thanks. We give thanks **for the restorative and healing properties** of water - ocean and lake - of mountains and forests, and of **being with ones we love** ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif, Dorothy, Barbara, Harry, and Marty we give thanks for the **worship resource, and for all the ways we remain connected** in spirit and prayer ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We continue to be grateful **for the technology and means of communication that keep us in touch with folks who are far away** - for Zoom and Facetime capabilities. God for all the resources available to us that connect us to community and friends ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

For the **animal companions** in our lives that bestow the blessings of their presence, their company and their affection ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We pray for Nancy's friend, **Mary and Mary's sister, Carol**. Carol was diagnosed with cancer and is not doing well. Mary went to be with her sister in FL this past week. We pray **for Carol's comfort and Mary's peace** as she tends to her. We also pray **for Carol's daughter who is beginning her college career at UNC-Chapel Hill** this fall, and whose move to campus is keeping her from being with her mother in this most difficult time. God, grant **the awareness of your ever present love and strength** to Mary, Carol and Carol's daughter. Fill them with **the reassurance that they are not alone** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, for **Ernie Steeves and Helen Turner**, we ask your **continued blessings of healing and courage**. Grant **wisdom and discernment** to those who are **providing care and treatments** for them ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Ernie we give thanks **for friends who nourish and sustain us** in the midst of difficult struggles - this week, we give thanks for **Deb**, who bakes

and delivers weekly doses of delicious blueberry muffins for Ernie ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Harry, we give thanks **for family and friends** that walk with us, that cook for us, and **for opportunities to learn** new things (especially from our grandchildren - like brownie and cookie baking) ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Liz, we give thanks **for neighbors who showed up** with rides to the optometrist and ensured her needs were taken care of when her glasses broke this past week ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

We pray for **Harry's continued healing and progress** with speech therapy and recovery from the stroke he suffered nearly a year ago ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

God, we pray for **rain** - for that refreshing goodness that quenches the thirst of your creation ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We pray for **Pastor Holly** as she continues her Clinical Pastoral Education program. We give thanks **for continuing education opportunities** and for First Baptist's encouragement of the growth and enrichment of their leadership ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With John we give thanks that "in these craziest of times, we've experienced so much good." **For all of God's goodness** and the ways large and small it is manifested in our lives and in our world. **Help us to be conduits of God's goodness in our own lives** ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With John we continue to offer thanks **for the beautiful gift of his new granddaughter, Ella Rose Crimmings**, to this world. With **John Crimmings** and **Stan Gibson**, we continue to pray for and hold **their families** in our hearts as they look forward to more family additions this summer - for **Christie Gibson** and **Elizabeth Crimmings** who are expecting newborns in the next several weeks ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

For **Christie Gibson and family** on the acquisition of a new minivan for their growing family and **for her continued good health**, we give thanks ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

For **Elizabeth Crimmings and their family's need** for a new and more accommodating vehicle as they prepare to welcome twins on September 10th (if not before!) ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Mark Holly, we give thanks **for the work and caring presence of FBC Needham in our community, and for the Sunday Calls of Caring.** We pray with Mark and Maggie **for the "Hole in the Wall Gang Camp"** and all those affiliated with its camping and mission - **for their safety and well-being.** We give thanks that **Mark, Nancy and Maggie are able to be home safely ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...* For Mark's son, **Patrick,** as he continues his work as a representative for Harley Davidson's global market ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Nancy, we give thanks **for opportunities of rest and respite.** Give us the restorative opportunities we so need, and the wisdom to appreciate them ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We give thanks that **Pastor Holly's** hand is slowly improving ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Liz, our hearts and prayers are poured out **for all those affected by the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon.** We mourn the precious lives lost, and the hearts and bodies broken, the catastrophic and tragic destruction. God **we ask that your mercies accompany all the pain and heartache that exist for our neighbors in Beirut and around the world...** *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

Gaelic Blessing

Arr. John Rutter

Sing, read aloud, or listen to "Gaelic Blessing" by John Rutter, as sung by Pastor Daryn and her sisters, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/p0yr0n2x327hags/14.%20Gaelic%20Blessing.aif?dl=0>

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars, pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.



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.

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/>)

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!

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**

PLEASE LET LIZ MERCER KNOW IF YOU HAVE MADE DONATIONS TO GENERIC MINISTRY SO SHE CAN INCLUDE OUR CHURCH'S CONTRIBUTION IN HER MISSION'S REPORT - you can email her at elmtreeartworks@verizon.net

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