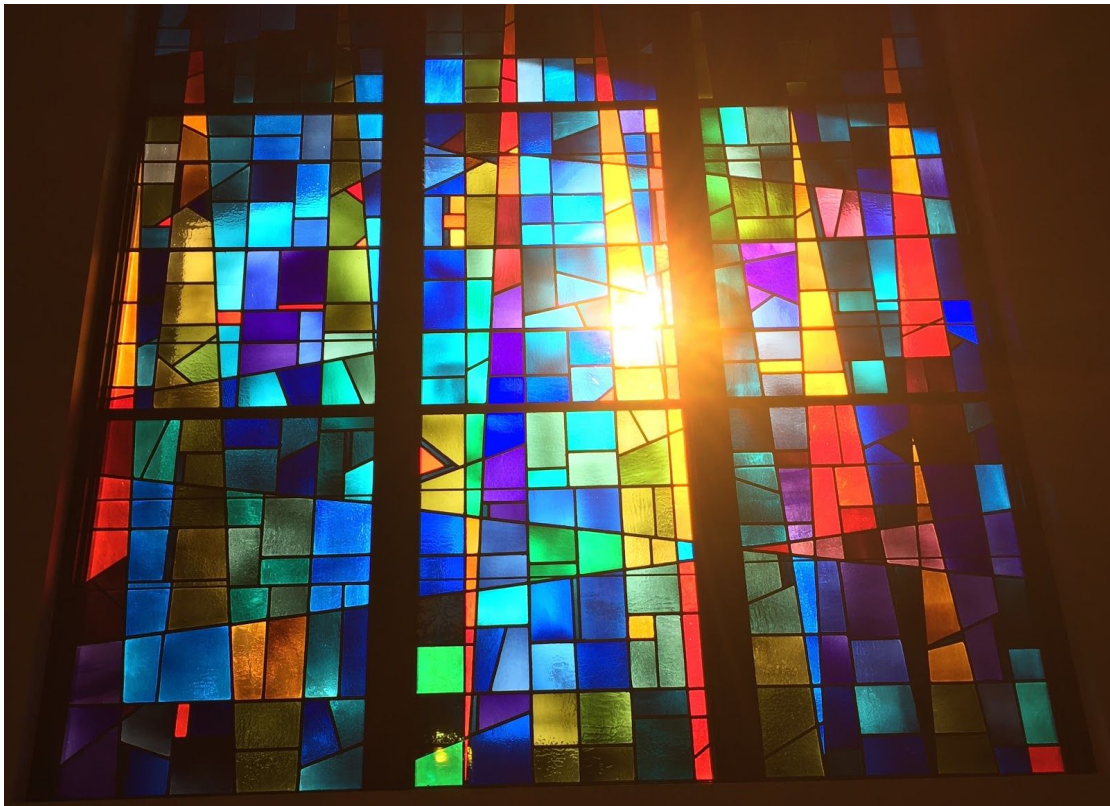


First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org



12th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 23

Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, August 23rd

2020

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

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?

Isaiah 51:1-6

Romans 12:1-8

Galatians 5:22-23

Luke 4:1-13

Sermon

Pastor Daryn preached a sermon for the Christian Youth Conference (CYC) 2020 in Ocean Park, ME (based on Luke 4:1-13).

The link to the sermon is provided here (you may have to restart the video from the beginning if it starts in the middle):

<https://youtu.be/wFKzyRNkgpw>



Song of Response

God Calls You Good

arr. Paul M. Vasile

Sing, read aloud, or listen to "God Calls You Good" by Paul M. Vasile, as sung by Pastor Daryn, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKqIQVkrTJ0>

God calls you good, beloved child.
You are a treasure deeply prized,
and you can say to every doubting voice:
'God calls you good, beloved child.'

God calls me good, beloved child.
I am a treasure deeply prized,
and I can say to every doubting voice:
'God calls me good, beloved child.'



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...

With Beverly, Pastor Holly, Louise, Clif and Harry , we give thanks **for the cooler weather ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We give thanks that **Pastor Daryn and family** are safely back in Massachusetts and that they were able to enjoy beautiful time with family in North Carolina ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We offer thanks that **Teddy**, who was involved in a minor tubing/boating accident, walked away with naught but scratches, bruised shins, and an injured hand that is swiftly recovering, and that **Spiro and cousin, Loukas**, were also okay ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Dorothy Kinne we give thanks that **Pastor Daryn and her family were safe in the North Carolina earthquake ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

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

With Andrew we pray **for all those traveling and returning to the Massachusetts area** that they will remain healthy and quarantine if necessary ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn we pray **for our tenants** and all those who are navigating this time of transition to fall scheduling with COVID-19 restrictions and limitations in place. Though they are necessary, we realize the burden they place on folks trying to keep businesses afloat, and those trying to resume the activities they love - choral singing and line dancing for instance, as well as those desiring to return to the practices and communities that help keep them whole, safe and healthy ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to hold in prayer all **those making decisions about education**, and for all the **students and teachers** navigating this time of differently patterned educational structures and platforms ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray **for teachers** who are designing lesson plans via Zoom and other online technologies - we pray the technology holds up to the demand placed upon it, and that the slides, images and illustrations necessary for the students' learning line up and coincide with the lessons and the material being presented --- we pray it all yields some good learning and that the platforms and technological means are easily adapted to the needs of our precious teachers who are already bearing so much ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn we pray for her sister in law, **Caryanne Story-Bunce**, whose first day back to teaching left her feeling extremely overwhelmed. For Caryanne and Lin's family as she returns to work, and for their son, Loukas, who begins kindergarten virtually, and for all the families facing the educational challenges of this 2020 academic year ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For **Arturo**, who also returns to teaching and in person preparation meetings, we pray for his sanity and safety as he prepares to navigate this year of learning. Guide his school in decisions that will hold his well being and the safety of all the teachers and students as a priority ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, be with the **students trying to learn this year** - help them stay as focused as possible on the tasks of each day. Give them strength and

resilience, and access to whatever they need to get the best education possible under the circumstances of this unprecedented school year, and we pray especially for each child to have a safe and healthy learning environment, wherever they are ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Jim Fuller and Pastor Daryn we hold those youth in our families and in our church family who are returning to school: Mason and Max, and for Mackenzie who returns to Northeastern this fall, for Fayrah, Anna Claire and Teddy, and for Katie ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We pray for all those returning to school and colleges from out of state. Keep them safe, God. Help each student to make the smart choices about social distancing and mask wearing necessary to keep them and our state as healthy as possible ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*** and give the educational institutions to which they return the good discernment they need as they decide how best to offer and hold classes and house a host of folks from around the world in as safe a manner as is possible ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Jim, we celebrate his daughter, Morgan's, recent graduation from Northeastern University and employment with Mercer Consulting as part of their wealth management program. Congratulations and blessings to you, Morgan! God be with you in this new stage of your journey... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Beverly we give thanks for **Trevor's** upbeat and easygoing attitude, and we offer prayers for him as he has not been feeling one hundred percent lately. For his comfort and peace, and for **Bev's** continued strength as she cares for him ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We pray for **Anthony** who has been sick this past week with achiness and a sore back. We pray for his recovery and healing, and that he is able to continue to get the rest he needs and regain his strength ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Beverly we pray for **Ernie** and **Helen** who are living with cancer and undergoing treatments of radiation and chemotherapy ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

God, for **Ernie** we pray for continued strength and healing, and ask that your abiding presence be a comfort to him. Ease his nausea and other

symptoms that have accompanied his chemotherapy experience ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For **Helen**, we ask that you would be with her in the midst of radiation. Grant a cooling relief from whatever discomfort she may have as a result of her treatments ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Barbara, Beverly and Dorothy, we continue to pray **for a safe and effective vaccine and an end to this pandemic and for all those living with and affected by COVID-19** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Barbara and Anne we pray **for Wingate and all assisted living facilities** as they continue testing for COVID-19 and caring for their residents. For their safety and well being ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Anne we give thanks that **Bruce** is back in his own room at Wingate and that he is doing well ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Pastor Holly's friend, **Kadrian**, we give thanks as she continues to recover from COVID-19. She expresses **her deep gratitude** that folks so far away - strangers that she'll likely never meet - **have stood in the gap for her and prayed her and her mother through this**. For the praying faithful of First Baptist in Needham and for Kadrian's improvement ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We offer our thanks and praise with Jim that his sister, **Kathy**, has turned a corner and is doing much better. For the prayers of this community and for Kathy's healing and restoration of spirit ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We continue to pray for Nancy's friend, **Mary, and Mary's sister, Carol**. Carol was diagnosed with cancer and is not doing well. God, we pray your peace and presence be known to **Mary, Carol and Carol's daughter** in this time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray for **John C.** in anticipation of an upcoming medical procedure, and for the rest and recovery that will necessarily follow - for a swift recovery ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Liz, Beverly and Dorothy we give thanks that **Pastor Holly's** hand continues to improve ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif, 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. We also acknowledge that it is not quite the same as being present in person with the ones we love and mourn their absence during this time of delayed gathering ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Harry, we give thanks **for his new cell phone** and the possibilities of communication and entertainment it holds, and **for his children** that provide so well for him and do their best to care for his every need ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Harry, Dorothy, Barbara, Louise, Clif, Pastor Daryn, and Pastor Holly we give thanks **for family**. We pray **that God watches over our loved ones** in this time and throughout all time. We give thanks for those who in our lives have loved us so well. **For the families of our church family**, God, we pray and ask your blessing ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Dorothy we give thanks for her children that care for her and stay in touch - for her five children and their families, and celebrate their love of her ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Barbara we remember the family that encircled her throughout her life and their very large presence - with six uncles and aunts on one side of her family and seven on the other. We celebrate the fun and companionship of cherished cousins and the dear companionship of siblings now departed. We give thanks for their love in her life, and especially remember in these prayers her cousin, **Regina Davis**, who is just two months older than Barbara and along with Barbara shares the significant honor of representing the last cousins of their generation. With Barbara, we give thanks for **Regina**, for her friendship and love, and her involvement in her church, her dedication to God and her community. We celebrate a recent award honoring all the work Regina has done and continues to do for her church ... “sewing since the day she was born, she keeps on going and it keeps her going,” Barbara says. Regina, who used to teach dancing, loves to travel and is always on the move. For her enduring and persistent spirit and the love she and Barbara share for one another, we give thanks ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

God, we give thanks for the **rain** of this past weekend, and we continue to pray for more - with the wilted forsythia and the drooping hydrangeas, we pray **for a sustaining drink of good refreshment for all of creation ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We share **Harry's** frustration with the loss of several tomato plants that seem to have been uprooted and eaten by critters in his yard. God, for the times when all our hard work and efforts amount to very little that we are able to personally enjoy, give us the **peace to accept our disappointment, and the resilience to try again ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With John we give thanks that **baby Ella** continues to do well, and that Ella's mother, **Eliza**, is recovering and regaining her postpartum strength ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We ask continued prayers for the expectant mothers in our community, for John's daughter in law, **Elizabeth**, and for Stan's daughter, **Christie**. Blessings and prayers as they navigate these last few weeks of pregnancy ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Marty, we give thanks **for those in our community that check in on us** and offer of their time, talent and concern to see that we are doing okay. We give thanks this week, along with Marty, for **Beverly Parson's** calls, nursing advice, and caring concern. **For Bev's helpful, thoughtful and giving spirit ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Marty, we celebrate the reminder that **gratitude itself is a blessing**, and **for all that we have to be grateful for**, we give thanks ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Anne we give thanks **for the care of physical therapists and for the tools and resources** they offer to ease our way through the world. We give thanks for Anne's new walker that allows her to get around more easily - for its sturdiness and maneuverability, and for **Anne's** open and willing spirit to accept this change ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Dorothy, Marty, Barbara and Jim we pray deeply **for our world**. We pray **for healing on all fronts - physical, societal, communal, and for the soul of our nation**. God, we know that sometimes the mystery of your timeline is a longer arc and timetable than we can perceive or than we anticipate, but in the words of our beloved Dorothy, "some evidence would be helpful" that you are working to make things better, more fair and more

just. We also acknowledge our part in that effort. We ask that **the fruits of the Spirit be the priorities** that guide the hearts and minds, decisions and policies of our leadership as well as the citizens of this country and our world. And what are the fruits of the Spirit? They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23a). God, grant us clarity and wisdom, integrity, truth and transparency as we make our way through the upcoming election season and beyond it. Help us as we seek and navigate toward the change that will guide us closer to you and your heart. Above all, help us to hold one another in love as we try to overcome the division and vitriol that has ensnared us, poisoning us against one another, while also being true to your call to love, be concerned and care for, and seek justice for our neighbors as we would ourselves ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We hold as a community the **family of Cannon Hinnant**. Five-year-old Cannon lost his life to gun violence at the hands of a neighbor, in the presence of his young sisters. We hold the grieving family as they struggle through the trauma and pain of losing this child, this son, this brother. We ask, God, that **your mercy and comfort accompany them through this very difficult time**. May Cannon's blessed memory be eternal, and the love he shared in his time on this earth be multiplied to each and every heart ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, for the neighbor, **Darius Sessoms**, we pray for his repentance ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For the moments in this world and in our own lives when our decisions have detrimental and irreversible consequences - when they cause pain and heartache and loss of life, **Lord, have mercy on us**. We pray for **accountability and justice**, while also asking that you would **help all of us embody your mercy and grace more fully** as we seek accountability and justice in our world ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to pray **for legislation and gun-control policies** that limit access to previous offenders and those with a history of violence. Ultimately, **we pray your peace and your will upon our world and our hearts** in such a way as to eliminate the need for such, or any, weapons of destruction.

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 Gift of Love

THE GIFT OF LOVE
arr. Hal Hopson

Sing, read aloud, or listen to "The Gift of Love" as sung by EFCI Children Choir, 12/16/2012,
conducted by Erinn Liu, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN6MzZW0Bes>
Another version, as sung by First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOZScIStWBg>

Verse 1:

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Verse 2:

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Verse 3:

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship and are freed.



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 will resume **September 3rd!**

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 pre registered attendees by 5pm on the day of worship if services are cancelled.

Blessings, all! We are looking forward to gathering on the lawn once again for worship.

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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