

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 24



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, August 30th

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?

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Song of Response

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

Hebrew Melody

trans. Mann and Landsberg

*Sing, read aloud, or listen to "The God of Abraham Praise" as sung by
The Cathedral Choir of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (New York, NY),*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_k0WbiQXiHw

Verse 1:

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
the ancient of eternal days, the God of love!

The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
we bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Verse 2:

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
in prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

Verse 3:

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;
who was, and is, and is to be, fore'er the same.



Prayers of the People

Enter into this time in song. If you don't know the tune, let the words be the doorway to your prayer.

Sung Prayer

BENZENHAFER

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

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

I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

Prayerful Meditation

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

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



We Hold in Prayer...

*Many of this week's prayers are requests from members of our congregation in the past week. **If you have general or specific prayer requests - joys as well as concerns - to share** please contact Holly or Daryn to pass them along.*

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

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 Stan and Betsy Gibson we rejoice at the **birth of their third grandchild!** Welcome to the world, **Ruth Frances Emanuel!** We give thanks that **Christie** is doing well and offer prayers for their family as they welcome this little one fully into their hearts, lives, and upended routines. We pray **for the patience and acceptance of older siblings,** and **for rest and recovery for Christie and Michael.** We surround them all with our love and blessings ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***



We continue to celebrate that John's newest grandchild, **Ella,** is doing well and that her mother **Eliza** is growing stronger in her recovery ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

Also, with John, we continue to hold **Elizabeth and Matt,** expectant parents of twins due in just a couple of weeks. The twins continue to remain healthy and are already weighing in at an estimated five pounds each. Prayers for their family, and a special prayer this week **for big sister, Madelyn,** as she prepares the way for her siblings ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We pray for **Carolyn,** daughter of Pat Day (Needham Children's Center), who is expecting a little one. We pray **for a healthy pregnancy and for rest and relief from anxiety and worry,** for **peace and ease** in these days of expectant waiting ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We give thanks with Louise, Dorothy, and Beverly **for family and loved ones** that are healthy, and for those ones who show up to look after us, to care for us and see that our needs are met ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

We pray with Louise **for the happiness and health of everyone in our church** family as we hold each other in our hearts each week ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We lift up to the care of God and hold in our hearts **Ernie** and **Helen** who are undergoing treatment for cancer.

We give thanks that the chemotherapy is holding Ernie's cancer at bay - holding it steady ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**
God we also know that it is working at a cost to Ernie's well being and comfort. We continue to pray **that Ernie will find relief from the taxing discomfort of chemotherapy, and the side effects of the treatment** that seem to be affecting his vision and hearing. We pray **that moments of joy and light will make themselves known each and every day** as he journeys through this time of unease, and pray **that he knows we are sending our love and prayers** his way to surround him and hold him in this difficult time. God, be with him, and with all who are struggling with diagnoses and treatments; help them to feel your abiding presence ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Kathy and Katie Johnson we hold their neighbor **Peggy Grace** in the light as she lives out her last days of this life, now home from hospice, surrounded by her family. God, we pray that **her journey to be closer to you** and to know you more fully in the heaven you have prepared, is a peaceful one. We pray that **her family and friends experience the reassurance and comfort** of knowing that she rests encircled in your everlasting and eternal love and goodness ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we pray for Pastor Daryn's great-aunt, **Charito "Chat" Jung**, who is in the ER recently diagnosed with COVID-19. We pray **your peace be with her and her family** in this time of uncertainty ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn and family we pray for their friend **Amaryllis** who underwent abdominal surgery last week, and who is still recovering from the surgery and from complications that arose. As she anticipates at least ten weeks of recovery time, we pray for **her comfort and strength**, and for the **rest** her body needs. We pray for her son, **Aiden**, a friend of Teddy's - **that he is able to be helpful to his mom** while also receiving the care he needs day to day ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Beverly, we pray for **Trevor** who is still not feeling himself. We pray **for a helpful diagnosis and for his healing**. We also hold Bev in our hearts as she cares for him so diligently each day, and offer **prayers of strength and resilience** for her ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew, we give thanks that his brother in law, **Horace “Bevo”**, is feeling better following a health scare, and a battery of tests, and offer **gratitude that he has been cleared of any life-threatening concern** ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Andrew, we give thanks **for respite from stress and the heat** of these days, and **for opportunities to travel and to be with family** ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Barbara, we give thanks **for opportunities to get outside for a bit**, to enjoy the sunshine and the beautiful flowers ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Andrew, we offer gratitude **for senior shopping hours** that make shopping easier on those most vulnerable to COVID-19 ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Pastor Daryn, we give thanks for the life and blessing of **Rev. Dr. Dearl Bunce**, her grandfather, who celebrated his 85th birthday this past week ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We also offer praise and thanksgiving that **Pastor Holly’s** hands continue to recover and are free from pain ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Ernie, we pray for his grandson, **Mac**, who is recovering from a recent injury that is affecting his professional soccer career and ability to play. We pray **for Mac as he endures the discomfort of his injury**, as well as the **disappointment of not being able to play** the sport that he loves so much. We ask that **he will continue to be able to play** for a professional team for at least one more year so that he is able to receive the benefits and opportunities for coaching that accompany a full professional career, and pray that this **injury is short lived** so that he is able to once again join in playing soccer ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew, we continue to pray for **Wren**. We hold in concern **the back pain she has experienced since giving birth**. We pray **for the wisdom of**

doctors to address her pain and provide the help she needs to recover. We ask that you would **be with her** as she seeks the help she needs from physicians and therapists postpartum ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

With Liz, we pray that God would **help us in our decision making, in our discernment each day**. When it comes to our decisions about our church, its well-being and continued faithful journey in following Christ, **be with us** leading and guiding us toward the realization of healthy and life-giving ministry ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

We give thanks with **DooSeon, for new opportunity** and praise God for **release and freedom from long held resentment**. We all know how difficult it can be to break free from cycles of hurt and pain we have experienced, and we celebrate with our dear friend that those things will no longer claim her or hold her captive ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We pray for all **those affected by recent natural disasters** - those living through the threat of wildfire, hurricane, and derecho. We pray **resources will be available** for the **protection and safety** of those in harm's way, and for the **recovery** efforts necessary to rebuild in the wake of these indiscriminate forces of nature ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

God, we hold in our hearts **Jacob Blake**, an unarmed man, who was shot in the back multiple times in front of his children by police in Kenosha, Wisconsin. For **Jacob**, who is currently paralyzed from the injuries he sustained, we ask **your healing**, God. For **Jacob's family, for his children**, who bore witness to the assault on his body by those sworn to serve and protect our communities, and **for all the communities that are traumatized** by these actions, God, we ask **your healing and your comfort** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer* ...

God, once again, we ask you to **have mercy upon us** when the mistakes and misgivings of our minds, hearts and bodies lead to irrevocable consequences that cause others and our world more pain. **Have mercy on us** when we abuse our power and privilege, when we misjudge, or when our biases and prejudices cloud our vision and corrupt our action. We pray for **the officer(s) involved** in this shooting, that they **repent for their unnecessary use of force**, and that these all-to-common reactions and our whole system and expectations for policing in this nation and in our communities **would present themselves** to you - **would open themselves**

up to your intervention and to the transformation that needs to come for justice and peace to reign in the hearts and systems we create ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and the tendencies toward discrimination and dehumanization in our world would be eradicated.** Give us the **strength to overcome** these sins ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Dorothy, we pray **for an end to fighting, an end to war, and an end to disease.** In her words, “what else can we do but hope.” God, we hope in you ... *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

O Christ the Same

LONDONDERRY AIR
arr. Timothy Dudley-Smith

Sing, read aloud, or listen to “O Christ the Same” as sung by The Choir of Belfast Cathedral,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alkuDYf2vxM>

Verse 1:

O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years;

O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

Verse 2:

O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of life, in all your saving power,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

Verse 3:

O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain.
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

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.

Baptism! We Rejoice that **Gretchen Leary McIntire will be baptized at Grotonwood on September 13th.** Due to COVID-19, we cannot be present in person with Gretchen as a congregation, so Pastor Daryn is asking everyone to submit words of affirmation and encouragement for Gretchen and her journey of faith in following Jesus. Please email your words of encouragement for Gretchen to pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org. Pastor Daryn will compile them and offer them as blessings for the baptism.

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.***

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

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

Text and Photo Attributions:

Cover photo:

<https://www.livescience.com/amp/will-california-redwoods-survive-wildfires.htm>((Some redwood trees burn near highway 236 in Boulder Creek, California, on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020). Image credit: Randy Vazquez/MediaNews Group/The Mercury News via Getty Images; "Walking the Labyrinth: FBC Needham 1" by Daryn Stylianopoulos; "Walking the Labyrinth: FBC Needham 2" by Daryn Stylianopoulos; "Ruth Frances Emanuel" by Stan Gibson; "FBC Needham Creative Callings Team with Our Angel: Muriel" by Daryn Stylianopoulos. Use with permission.