

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 25



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, September 6th

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?

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20



Song of Response

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

arr. Henry Van Dyke

Sing, read aloud, or listen to a recent rendition of the “Sister Act II” anthem, “Joyful, Joyful”, directed and produced by David Rowen, choreographed by Christen Svingos; sung by Tiffany Mann, Kyle Taylor-Parker, David Rowen and Melissa Victor:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KP3XizrZHQ>

You can also watch clips of the original “Sister Act II” cast on Youtube, featuring singer, Lauryn Hill here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaEH1e_DLm0&list=RDOaEH1e_DLm0&start_radio=1&t=135

Or, enjoy this version at the Royal Albert Hall in London:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE>

Verse 1:

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of Love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Maker of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Verse 2:

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Verse 3:

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother - all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Verse 4:

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began,
love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

(rap)

Joyful, joyful, Lord we adore thee, and in my life I put none before thee,
since I was a youngster I came to know that you were the only way to go.
So, I had to grow and come to an understanding
that I'm down with the King, so now I'm demanding
that you tell me who you down with, see
Cause all I know is that I'm down with G-O-D
You down with G-O-D, **yeah you know me** (x4)

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 Liz, we celebrate and give thanks for new life! **Liz's second cousin** had their second child Saturday. Welcome to the world, **Elijah Wayne Blanton!** Elijah weighs in at 7lbs 15oz, and was 19.5 inches long at birth. We give thanks **for this little one**, and **for the loving family** he has found himself a part of. God **bless him each day of his life**, and **may the prayers of our church community be an added blessing** to the Blantons and Liz as they celebrate Elijah's birth ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

We continue to celebrate with Stan and Betsy Gibson and rejoice at the **birth of their third grandchild!** Welcome to the world, **Ruth Frances Emanuel!** ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With John C., we continue to celebrate the birth of his granddaughter, **Ella**, born to Michael and Eliza. We also continue to hold his children **Elizabeth and Matt**, who are expecting twins in short order. Give them the **strength and energy** they need for this final push to delivery, and then, Lord, grant them many **reinforcements** ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We give thanks with Pastor Daryn, Barbara, Dorothy, and Louise we give thanks **for healthy families** ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Andrew, we give thanks **for the blessings received and given** when we share each other's joys and endeavor with sympathy to bear one another's burdens and sorrows ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Dorothy and Louise, we give thanks **for the Calls of Caring** each week and **for the ways we are able to stay in touch** with one another **...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Louise, we offer gratitude **for our breath, for our family and for nice weather ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Pastor Holly, Beverly and Liz, we offer prayers **for our church community**. We realize we may not be back in the building anytime soon, but we give thanks **that church is still happening - that we are doing what we are supposed to do** - we enact church when we pray, when we read scripture, when we care for one another - we are being church **...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...** In the meantime, Lord, **protect our folks**. Help us look after one another and keep each other safe **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...**

With the Stylianopoulos family, we give thanks for two new additions to their extended family. Spiro's sister, **Claire, and family welcome two new black labrador puppies, Cassie and Rocco ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We offer prayers of thanksgiving with Barbara, who celebrates **that all at Wingate are healthy, and for the opportunity to go to the dining room** to eat every now and again, even though it is just one person to a table right now **...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Barbara, we offer **prayers for those on our hearts right at this moment**, whoever they might be **... Pastor Holly, Clif and Anthony, and Bruce (you may want to name those on your heart in this moment) ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Kathy and Katie Johnson we hold the memory of **Peggy Grace** who passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. **May her memory be eternal as she finds rest in your eternal love ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

Together we hold **Carole Sullivan** of the Needham Children's Center in prayer. Her brother, **Neil**, entered into hospice care this past week. It has been an especially difficult time for their family and for Neil because they have not been able to be together due to COVID restrictions during his illness. Carole is hopeful that hospice will allow more of an opportunity for

them to visit with Neil. We do pray that is the case. We ask **for comfort for their family, and for Neil. May God's presence be known to each one** of their hearts in this liminal time, and **may the prayers of our community convey the peace of Christ to Neil, Carole and their family ... 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 **that his test results come out well and that he gets relief**. We continue also to hold Bev in our hearts as she cares for Trevor each day, and offer **prayers of strength and resilience** for her ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif, we offer prayers for his friend, **Norman Pelletier**, who is **mourning the death of a son** for a second time. His son, **Stephen**, passed away this past week. We ask for prayers for **Norman**, that his broken heart would find comfort in the love and support of family and friends, and that Stephen's memory be an eternal blessing to his father and all who knew him ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We pray for Harry, whose friend, **Gim Fong**, passed away. Gim Fong was a wonderful man, a scientist, and professional who did a lot for the Chinese community in the Boston area. He was a World War II veteran and shared time with Harry and friends at the American Legion. He will be missed and his memory celebrated in the Chinese community, and by friends and family across Boston, Newton and Wellesley. We celebrate Gim's legacy, and **hold his family and our friend, Harry, in our prayers ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We give thanks with Clif and Anthony **for time away and a chance to go to the beach**; we also give thanks **for time to relax and recuperate**, for facials and haircuts, pampering, and good self care ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

God we pray for **Helen** as she undergoes radiation treatments for lung cancer. **Keep Helen in good spirits** as she moves through this time of uncertainty. May our prayers **offer some comfort and reassurance** to her, and to her beloved sister, **Elaine** ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

God, as we prepare to exercise our right to vote this election season, with Andrew, we ask **for your protection from threats foreign and domestic that attempt to interfere with our elections**. Help us be able to respond adequately and promptly to any and all threats to our voting system, including policies, laws, and tactics used to prevent eligible voters from registering to vote or casting a vote. With Andrew, we continue to give thanks that his brother in law, **Horace “Bevo”**, is feeling better following a health scare that kept him hospitalized overnight, and offer **gratitude along with Bevo’s family that he has been cleared of any life-threatening concern** ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Harry, we give thanks **for the fruits and vegetables delivered by the senior center** to homebound folks in the area, and we give thanks that some of the delivery persons this week were good friends of Harry’s. **For good friends and the opportunity to connect with them** ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Andrew, Clif and Pastor Daryn, we ask for your **guidance** as we walk through our church’s administrative tasks and decisions, as we strive to care for our tenants and all those who are somehow connected to our ministries and our building; in this difficult time, Lord, **show us the way to balance our concern for our neighbors with the needs of our house** ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Andrew, **help us to always be mindful** of our intention to be led by the spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and guide, and to be servants of Christ and one another as we are formed by one another in discipleship ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Barbara, we give thanks **for the red cardinals**, that remind her of **Karen Campanella**, may Karen’s memory be eternal ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

Prayers for **Pastor Holly**, that her hands continue to recover and remain pain-free ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, with Clif, we hold **Anthony** in prayer and pray for relief from the **muscle tightness** he is experiencing in his back ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks that **Marilyn Blake** is doing fine, and send our blessings and prayers her way ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Liz, we hold in prayer her cousin, **Jane**, and their precious cat, **Billy**; it is so difficult to lose dear animal companion, and to accompany them in their illness ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, we offer **thanksgiving for the blessings of technology** - for phones and headsets that connect directly to hearing devices, making it easier to stay in touch and hear important conversations, **for the other ways phones allow us to communicate with those we love and stay connected** to our world ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif, we pray for **careful action and discernment in approaching the COVID-19 pandemic**, and pray for **communities who have suffered because of an inadequacy of precaution**. For weddings and churches, and baptisms and camps, that have become epicenters of contagion. God, **help us to be patient and smart about gathering in person, particularly indoors**. Give us the **wisdom** to know when the risk is too great, and to **value the precious lives of each one** in our community enough to refrain, to wear our masks, and keep our distance ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif and Pastor Daryn, we give thanks **for churches that are doing what they can to keep services going online or safely in person** - We ask protection for the Catholic churches holding masses each week, we ask that God's presence **be with us as we begin to gather again on Thursday evenings on our lawn**, and we offer thanks for the services we can tap **into online**, for our neighbors at the **Methodist Church, College Park Baptist Church, Old Cambridge Baptist, First Baptist Beverly, First Baptist Church in JP, and Belleville Congregational Church**, for example, whose services we have appreciated during this pandemic. For **all the ways online services and offerings allow us to participate** in so many

possibilities for worship and bible study that we would not otherwise be able to attend ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

God, with Andrew, we give thanks **that you are always there for us**, to hear us when we pray and to respond to the needs of our hearts. Thank you **for enabling us to take on our daily tasks and to overcome temptation**, as we strive to live according to your will for our lives and our world ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We continue to offer prayers **for all those returning to school, students and teachers alike - and for all the parents navigating work and at home schoolers**. God, **grant an abundance of creativity and patience** for this unusual academic calendar. **Bless each and every one** of those planning and undertaking the challenges of education this school year. With Clif, we offer a **prayer this week for his niece in Greensboro, NC, who has begun the school year teaching English as a Second Language courses virtually** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, with Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly, with Clif, Dooseon, Bev, Liz, Harry, Elaine, and our entire community, we pray for our dear friend, **Ernie**, we ask that you would offer him some **peace and respite** from his chemotherapy treatments. We **lament that he has to endure so much pain and discomfort** to achieve the desired results of his treatments. We call upon your name to **heal and protect, to comfort and sustain, and to deliver Ernie**. **Free him from the powers of sin in this world - even at the cellular level** - when things go awry and turn from your will of goodness and life-giving grace. **Grant Ernie a light** in this time of shadow, **and freedom from all that oppresses him**. May our prayers be a **blessing to him and his family** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, **for the continued unrest in Kenosha, WI, Portland, OR, and other cities across our nation** in the wake of the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police officers, and now in the wake of other violence that continues to drive home the racial injustice, the political tensions, and the deep divisions of our own communities. **We continue to pray for the restoration and redemption of our hearts and our homes, of our communities and our country**; we recognize that change starts with each one of us. **Help us to be better, to be wiser, to see the truth and call out the lies and the nonsense**. Aid our eyes and our hearts in seeing the **belovedness in each one we encounter**, and to work hard **for the well being of all our neighbors**. **Make it all plain, God** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray for those whose lives have been lost in armed confrontation: **Aaron J. Danielson, Anthony Huber, and Joseph Rosenbaum.** And we hold in prayer the assailants and their misguided actions, **Kyle Rittenhouse** among them ... *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 our divided communities, **unite us in your love and mark us with repentance and humility** so we can seek the change we need to heal. Again, help *all of us* seek and be ready for 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 ...*

For yet another week 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 ...*

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

You'll Never Walk Alone

arr. Rogers and Hammerstein

Sing, read aloud, or listen to “You’ll Never Walk Alone”, from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical, “Carousel” as sung by this virtual choir and orchestra of over 300 people from 15 different countries, under the direction of Harrison Sheckler:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gpoJNv5dlQ>



When you walk through a storm keep your head up high,
and don't be afraid of the dark.
At the end of the storm is a golden sky,
and the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain
though your dreams be tossed and blown,
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart,
and you'll never walk alone.
You'll never walk alone.

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 THIS THURSDAY, **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

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