

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 26



Worship and Prayer Resource
Sunday, September 13th
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?

Do the scriptures this week leave you with any questions? God’s salvific action in delivering the Israelites from the oppressive hands of the Egyptians has been both the catalyst for liberation theology and for deep questioning about the justice and mercy of God - what in theological circles is called theodicy - particularly in light of the Christian tradition’s emphasis on forgiveness and grace. We can see places throughout our scriptures where one is emphasized over another - retribution vs. grace and forgiveness. Is there room for both when it comes to God’s justice? Are there choices to be made? What does Jesus have to say about these things? What does Jesus’s lived testimony have to teach us about these things?

May these promptings of faith be a blessing as you deeply consider some of the most challenging and rich questions of our faith.

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalms 103:8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Song of Response Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Be Thou My Vision", as sung by the Norton Hall Band,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdBnu7OXk9g>

Verse 1:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Verse 2:

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord:
Thou my great Father, I thy true son (child),
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Verse 3:

Riches I heed not, or man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Verse 4:

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Alternate version:

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart -
You my best though my day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won ...
(same as Verse 4)



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...

We celebrate our September birthdays and offer gratitude for each one of these precious to our community: **Clif Holbrook** (11th), **Sherry Wile** (16th,

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

Gregory Mobley (21st) and Ernie Steeves (29th) ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...

We mourn with our community as our dear friends and neighbors at **Hillcrest Gardens** close after forty years of service to our Needham community. We will miss them, their kindness, their generosity, and the attention to fostering the flourishing of beauty in the world. We also celebrate with them, their retirement and this new beginning, their next steps on their journey, and the opportunities and blessings that await! We give thanks **for them and the blessing they have been to us: For Joe and Rob - for the blessing they have been to our town and to our church; for the care and generosity of spirit** with which they dedicated their time and talent, and **the attention** they gave to the beauty of our own grounds, to **the teaching of our children during Vacation Bible School, and the planting of our West Wing Prayer Garden** (and donation of all the plants). **For the love they lived** into the world each and every day, we give thanks. **For the smiles, and waves and extra honks** as they passed on the street and drove by outdoor worship. **For all the ways they have deeply contributed to the lives of so many through their gifts**, we offer our gratitude and blessings for the journey! ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With **David Penn**, we offer prayers for his **Uncle Neil**, who is in the last week of his life on this earth. Neil has lived a long life with Polio, and stopped eating very recently. For Neil's family as they celebrate his life and mourn his absence from theirs, may they be comforted knowing that you, God, are with Neil as you have always been and that Neil will find eternal rest in your love ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan we pray for the safety of his son-in-law **Michael** as he commutes by bike to school/work each day this fall. **For Michael's safety and for the alertness** of all those on the roads. We also hold Michael in prayer as he **begins his PhD program in computer science at Harvard University**. As he participates in the challenges of learning and teaching in this strange academic time, we pray **for strength and creativity** for Michael ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With John C., we pray for his children **Matthew and Elizabeth** who are expecting twins. We pray **for a safe delivery and for the wisdom of the medical team accompanying** them through this precious time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray with Louise for our families - for their health and happiness ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*** And we offer gratitude for all the times we can say to one another that those we love are doing well ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Ernie, we give thanks **for his grandson, Mac's, successful surgery.** The surgical procedure which cleared away residual scar tissue from previous operations, and removed a damaged nerve, was so successful that Mac may get to play soccer within a month's time! We share in his great joy at this news and for the opportunity he now has to do what he loves ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Robin we pray for her cousin, **Sherry**, who suffered a fall. Though no surgery is required Sherry continues to feel off-balance. We pray Sherry gets **the treatment she needs to once again feel herself and find her center ...** ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Nancy, we continue to hold her friend **Mary** in our hearts **as she accompanies her sister, Carol** in her struggle with cancer. We give thanks that **Carol is out of the hospital**, while also recognizing the progression of her illness and the difficulties that lie ahead. **God be with Mary and Carol** - give them strength and an assurance of your presence and love in this time, and help them to know each other's love across distance when they cannot be together ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Marty, Harry and Louise, we give thanks **for the Calls of Caring** and for the prayers of our community for one another ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

Prayers for **Gretchen** as she recovers from a trip to the ER, following an infection. We pray her fever returns to normal, and that she regains her strength ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Nancy, we pray for Vicki, whose father died last week, and for her family as they mourn his passing. He was in a nursing care facility in New York toward the end of his life; it was difficult for his family to be with him or visit during his last days. We grieve this loss with them and pray they are able to know something of your peace and love through the comfort, care, and prayers of friends and loved ones ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...***

With Beverly, we pray for **Trevor** who is suffering the discomfort of a hernia. As they await the opinion of physicians and further review of results, we pray **that Trevor continues to remain in good spirits**. We also hold **Trevor** who is **struggling with the loss of his hearing and memory**, and for **Bev** as **she faithfully and lovingly provides for his care** each and every day in the midst of these added challenges. **For patience and joy** made evident in each day ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly, we acknowledge the strangeness and uniqueness of the way time is experienced by folks in this world, for some passing as quickly and fleetingly as sand through the fingers, and for others weighing heavily as though a burdensome boulder upon them, unmoving and unyielding. God, **grant relief from the burdens and the racing of time and life**. Offer **comfort to those for whom time is not a friend in these days** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks for Clif, Robin, and Stephen who have worked the weekend through to ensure our church building is ready as our tenants return to childcare and ballet this fall ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

For the safety of Needham Children's Center, Neighborhood Nursery School, and Charles River Ballet, as they begin their programming this fall - for the continued well-being of the teachers, children and their families we pray ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*



With Andrew, we continue to offer prayers **for a safe school reopening**, virtual, hybrid and in person models alike ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With **Harry** we offer gratitude **for the opportunity to celebrate the lives of the saints who have gone before us, and for the traditions old and new that have been a part of honoring them.** With Harry, we continue to remember and celebrate his wife, **Jean**, and the beautiful way she cared for him, his family, and the world around her, including the detailed and cherished rituals of Chinese custom she performed on behalf of her own parents and loved ones. **For Labor Day trips to gravesites of family and friends in the company of children, and for the ability and technology to not only share those precious moments with those at our side, but also to share them with friends who can no longer make the journey to honor their loved ones' memories, through shared photo and video, we offer thanksgiving. May the memory of all those we love be eternal ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We give thanks with **Clif** we offer for **PJ**, and **for the companionship of our animal friends and family ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

God we continue to pray for **Helen** as she undergoes radiation treatments for lung cancer. **Help her to know your presence and comfort, and grant your peace** to accompany **Helen** and **Elaine** as they navigate this time. **We send our love and blessings ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With **Clif** and **Liz**, and our community of faithful we offer **gratitude for helpful neighbors** who offer their assistance when we are in need. For neighbors who trim Hemlock and for neighbors who install smoke detectors **... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

For **Pastor Holly**, we ask your **peace amid some discombobulation** as she **navigates the first autumn season not oriented according to an academic calendar since the age of five.** God, **for opportunities for new patterns and synapses** to make their way into our living, and **for your steadying presence** as we learn to ambulate accordingly **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

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

God, for **Clif**, **Spiro** and **Teddy**, and **any and all who may be next**, we pray for relief from cold symptoms and allergies **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

Our community continues to pray for **all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic**, particularly **those who are sick or accompanying the sick through this time, and those who have lost dear friends and family**. With Bev, we pray for **common sense solutions - for mask wearing and social distancing** that have been proven to work, and for **people's compliance ...**
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

Prayers for Gretchen as she transitions away from a job opportunity. We pray for an opportunity that is the right fit to employ her talents and skills...
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Andrew, we offer thanks for **new perspectives** on the world around us and for **beautiful fall weather and anticipated fall blooms ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We hold Andrew's friend, **Laura Renshaw**, in our prayers as she begins her new business, a driving school in Oklahoma. **May it flourish and be a blessing** in her community ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray for **all those fleeing wildfires** in California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado and elsewhere across the western United States ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray for **the climate, for the health and well-being of our sacred earth, and for its restoration and healing**, and that **people would care enough to change** destructive patterns of being, and **place the fortune of our planet over and above the fortunes of their corporations ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif and Anthony we give thanks for **clean and renewable sources of energy**, and we pray **the solar panel installation** on their house goes smoothly ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We continue to hold **Wren** in our prayers as **she struggles with the overwhelming responsibilities and demands of being the sole caregiver for a young baby**. We pray that **she finds the support and community she needs in this time**. God, provide her with the **reassurance of your presence** in the caring hearts and hands, and willing and able assistance of the village - that wonderful group of folks who find us when we need it most ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

Our community continues to hold **Ernie** in prayer for his **continued healing and recovery**. We give thanks **for his loyal and faithful service to God and our church community through the years, and for his friendship**, and as we celebrate those things we long **for his comfort and happiness, for an ease to his suffering and pain**. We pray **that he receives the care, help and support he needs**, particularly in the midst of chemotherapy and the resulting exhaustion that accompanies his treatments. **May his dancing shoes find their beat again! ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

To all of you, near and far, **for whom these worship resources are a blessing**, we offer **our greetings and our prayers**. For **all you readers and co-worshippers** who journey alongside us each week and hold our community in your prayers, we offer **our gratitude and our blessing**. To **Pastor Holly's parents**, who offered a special prayer of gratitude for our First Baptist Community and our ministries this past week - for **Miss Emily and Super Dave** - we offer a special greeting and heartfelt, **"May the Peace of Christ be with you!" along with big air hugs**.

God, for another week (we might just need to say this *every* week), we ask your **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 ...**

We mourn and lament the death of **Daniel Prude** and the unjust accompanying circumstances at the hands of those sworn to serve and protect him. For the choices of humiliation over dignity, excessive power and pride over excessive concern and treatment, reactivity over humility, **God, forgive**. For the unnecessary outcomes that have resulted from those choices - more symptoms of the pain and brokenness we see in our world, **God we repent and ask your forgiveness ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, for our **lack of awareness and support for those struggling with mental illness**, and similar **lack of care for those fighting the powers of**

addiction, God, **we repent** and ask your forgiveness ... *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 ...*

We pray **for our country as we remember and commemorate the events of September 11, 2001**. God we honor the heroes of that day, the first responders and each person who raced to save all the lives they could, to be beacons of light and life in the midst of horrific death and tragedy. We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose lives were lost and pray that our prayers and outpouring of love each year are a blessing of comfort to their loved ones. May the memories of the fallen be an eternal light for our world that helps us to see and to seek the good in the world, to enhance and build connections and communities of love, to support one another, to help and heal one another, and to decry and rout out racism, bigotry, xenophobia, terrorism, hatred, and violence in all its forms ... *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



All Shall Be Well: Reflections on Julian of Norwich

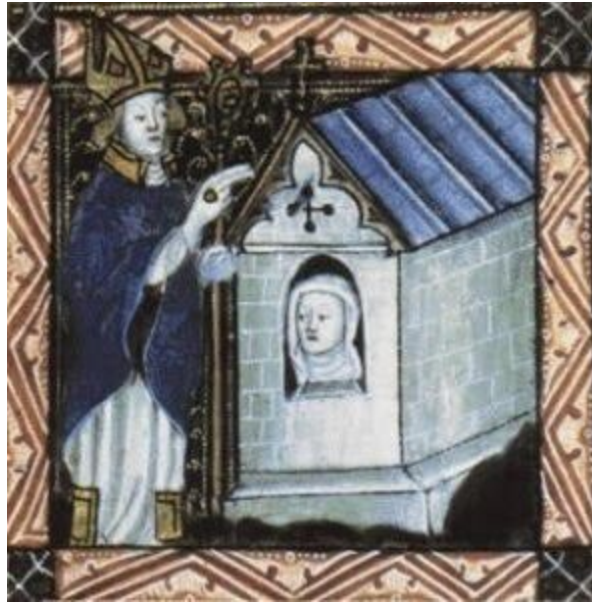
A Reflection by Rev. Lindsay Ross-Hunt,
Associate Rector and Campus Chaplain
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Bellingham, WA

May 14, 2020

I have been thinking a lot about Julian of Norwich lately—and not just because the 14th century mystic's feast day is upon us (May 8). I can't help thinking that she has particular wisdom for us in the time in which we find ourselves.

Julian—whose book is thought to be the oldest surviving book written by a woman in English—wrote during a period of great suffering and uncertainty. The 100 Years War between England and France began before she was born and continued long after she died. As often accompanies war, famine was prevalent throughout England. Perhaps most catastrophic of all, she wrote during a time of pandemic: the decimation of much of Europe's population by the bubonic plague. Three outbreaks occurred in her city throughout her life, and she herself nearly died, from plague or some other ravaging disease. All in all, the pain must have seemed overwhelming: suffering was everywhere. Many in her day attributed the horror to the wrath of God. Perhaps it is surprising, then, that her theological response is not one of despair or judgment, but of love, solidarity, and hope.

She is well known as the author of the prayer, “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” In images she is often depicted with a cat or a hazelnut. She lived as an anchoress, completely isolated in a one room cell off the side of a church. This is not to say she wouldn't have had interactions with the urban environment around her, but all such interactions would have taken place through the walls and windows of her anchorage. Sound at all familiar?



A bishop blesses an anchoress in this 15th century depiction. Image: Public domain.

Julian lived in isolation *during a pandemic*.

When she was struck down with illness she experienced a number of visions, which have been passed down to us as *The Revelations of Divine Love*” or the Showings. In a seemingly paradoxical move, one who lived in isolation passed down to us an understanding of a God who is in essence relational: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in relationship with one another and with humanity through the solidarity of the person of Jesus.

Indeed, Julian uses highly relational language to describe God and Jesus and their relationship to humanity: mother, father, brother, and spouse. God, in this sense, is imminent and connected. This highly relational God has created a world in which everything that exists, exists through the love of God’s-self. God makes, loves, and protects, and thus the relational love and action of God permeate all of life.

You may have heard the story about the hazelnut. Julian describe one of her visions,

“And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazel nut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, “what may this be?” And it was answered generally thus, ‘It is all that is made.’ I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was

answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

“In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves in. And the third, that God keeps it.”

Julian looked at the suffering around her and saw not the punishment of God, but the love of God extending into every nook and cranny to meet and find us in it. And nothing demonstrated this more for her than the example of Jesus himself—just as we suffer, so did Jesus. God does not stay above the fray, so to speak, but enters into our suffering in solidarity.

So when Julian says, “all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well” it is not the Hallmark-card statement of someone putting on rose-colored glasses, or sticking their head in the sand pretending all this bad stuff will go away, but the voice of one who has deeply experienced suffering and tried to make sense of it. And the way she does so is through a brutally honest trust in the love of God.

It strikes me that this is a prayer we can lean into even when we don’t see it or feel it. It is not a descriptive statement of *now*, but a hopeful statement of what *shall be*. It is, in many ways, an Easter declaration: there will be life. Wholeness. Peace. Restoration. All shall be well.

We know now that our lives may never fully return to the way they were before the pandemic. Just as 9-11 forever changed the way we navigated and experienced airports, this pandemic will alter the way we do church. We may not be able to gather as a full community again for a good long time, and we likely won’t be able to sing together for even longer. There is much to grieve, for there is much lost.

And yet, how we do church is not the church—we are. And we will navigate these uncharted waters as so many of the saints have done before us, leaning into the wind of the Spirit as she carries us forward into whatever is next. For as Julian reminds us in the image of the hazelnut, that which God has created, “lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves in. And the third, that God keeps it.”

God keeps us, and God will keep the church, even if and when it looks different than it did before. And “all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

Offering

During this time of offering, consider going right now to <https://www.fbcneedham.org>

*(Take Action) 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. **World Missions Offering!** Throughout the month of September, we are collecting a directed offering to support American Baptist missionaries and the work of International Ministries. See the enclosed materials and give on our website by clicking Take Action and specifying Missions Donation.*

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

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 by **SEPT 11th!** 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.

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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