

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 28



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, September 27th

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 17:1-7

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Song of Response

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "I Love to Tell the Story", as sung by Emmylou Harris and Robert Duval, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJaDRuOYHkE> or the ChuckWagonGang, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xgbsC_zL50

Verse 1:

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longing as nothing else can do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Verse 2:

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own Holy Word. *(Refrain)*

Verse 3:

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *(Refrain)*

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...

We pray **for our congregation** as we begin an intentional process of discernment about **the future of First Baptist Church in Needham** - as we listen and **seek God's will and the movement of the Holy Spirit** through shared story and conversation with ministry partners, community partners and one another. We ask for **your blessing, Holy One, in this process**. Help us to **show up and participate fully, to be good and considerate listeners and careful with our words**. Help us to **receive clarity, and to move forward into a new iteration of ministry** knowing that **you have always called us into a newness of life and being**. Help us to move into that way of being together **without fear or trepidation, unhindered** by what we find comfortable or customary, what is expected or assumed. **Open our hearts** to your **wide and generous realm of possibility** and give us the **wisdom and strength to move forward into our next Creative Calling** as our process kicks off on **October 4th ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With John and Joann Crimmings, we continue to pray for the newborn twin grandbabies, **Kayleigh** and **Benjamin**, who were born prematurely. We celebrate that they are both home from the hospital, and doing well!...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...** We also give thanks that for the first time in many months, their family was able to gather together with all six grandchildren present (5 of 6 under the age of 2)! In John's words, "life's pretty great with six healthy grandkids. Amidst all the craziness and heartache is our great joy!" ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Andrew we give thanks **for the new life all around us** in the gift of so many newborns. We pray **for all the new parents and grandparents** in our community, and **for the big sisters and big brothers ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Mark Holly we give thanks that his son, **Patrick**, is doing well in Dallas, TX and loving his job with Harley Davidson ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Stan we pray for his daughter, Carolyn, and all those whose work routines and their accompanying joy, have been upended and disrupted by COVID-19 and the necessity of online and remote meetings and interactions. For patience and flexibility and an easing of the frustrations that are a part of technological solutions, we pray ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

As a community we hold **Ernie Steeves**. We accompany him in this long journey of treatment for cancer, and offer our hearts as we lift them up to you, O God, in prayer. We pray **for mercy and an ease to his pain and discomfort**. We pray **for all those caring for him** - family, nurses, doctors, friends - **for their wisdom and the healing they bring** in their work as they tend to his needs. As Ernie's medical team seeks viable treatment options that will provide a renewed quality of life for him, we ask that you **lead, guide and direct them toward the best course of action**, and one that is favorable to Ernie - his healing, wholeness, and happiness. We ask **that Ernie would know and be assured of your presence with him** each step of the way, and that **the love and prayers of our community** would buoy him up, hearten his spirits, and give him strength ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We continue to offer prayers of support for **Helen** as she finishes radiation treatments and for **Elaine** as she cares for her sister. **May they know that we are holding them in our hearts**. We ask your **continued healing blessing** upon Helen in this time ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Marty, Mark, Harry, Dorothy, and Louise we give thanks **for the Calls of Caring** each week and **for the worship resource** that keeps us connected and informed. **It is good to be remembered ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Anthony we are grateful **for good health and for the well being of family** in the Philippines ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

With Louise and Dorothy we offer **gratitude for our families** who are doing well and ask for **continued blessings of healing and comfort** for those we love ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

God we pray for **Trevor Parsons**, who is home and seems to slowly be doing a little better each day. We pray **for his continued healing** and that the **medications he is taking now for his thyroid will provide some swift relief** from the discomfort he has been experiencing for some time now. We also pray **for the wisdom of the doctors and medical team** caring for him. As he waits at home for their decisions and treatment options, we pray for **Bev** who cares for him daily. For **her strength and resilience each day**, and for **her continued good spirits, along with Trevor's ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Harry we give thanks **for his sons that care for him**, and go for walks and bring meals weekly, and **for grandchildren** that text messages and signs of their love and appreciation ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We offer gratitude along with Harry **for the little things that bring us joy** and keep us busy - football and basketball games, journaling, emailing friends and family, and reading ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Jim we continue to offer prayers for his sister, **Kathy**, for **her continued healing and well being ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We hold **Stan** in prayer this week following the **breaking of a tooth** that requires treatment. We pray he is able to receive **the care and healing he needs** without too much pain, and **for the wisdom of those providing his dental care**. We also celebrate **the wonders of modern medicine and dentistry** that have allowed for the possibility of a tooth implant, and pray **that the series of accompanying procedures goes well for Stan ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Jim and Marty we pray **for our world**. This week we especially pray **for our country and for the moral compass of our leadership**. God, we pray **that your will, your justice, your truth** would be the guiding light of those at the helm of our nation's ship. We pray **that your wide and inclusive spirit** will be the measure by which we are governed and legislated ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Marty and many we are saddened by the recent passing of Supreme Court Justice, **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**. We celebrate **her legacy of fairness and equality, particularly her long tenure of advocacy for women's rights and all of those who found themselves disenfranchised by the status quo**. As Marty reminds us, she was a "little bit of a thing, but swung a big stick."

We give thanks **for her witness!** God, **may she rest in peace with you** and in the circle of your everlasting care, and **may her memory be an eternal inspiration** to us all. In respect for the spirit of her legacy, we pray **that there will be justice and fairness, and a lack of hypocrisy in the consideration and timing of her replacement ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif, we give thanks **for folks like Hillcrest Electric and others that have helped us care for our building and our tenants** in this time, for their **work on the ventilation** of our church, we give thanks **...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

God, for all **those facing questions of discernment**, we give thanks for the time and space to enter into that deliberation intentionally - when we are **able to entertain the discernment of our hearts free from crisis ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We hold in our hearts the crisis situations that arise that do not allow for such a luxury of intentionality and time in our decision making. **For all those rushed or pressured, or forced into choices**, we pray **for their comfort and your presence**, Holy One, and **for their liberation ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif and Anthony we give thanks **for dinner with good friends ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With John and Pastor Holly we pray **for all those returning to school** in this time with all the many factors to consider and navigate **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We also hold **those who are not returning to school at this time, and are finding that reality disconcerting**. For **John's daughter** who is a teacher, and due to parental leave, will not be teaching this fall, and for **Pastor Holly** who has been in academia since early childhood and for the first season is not returning - **for the seasons of our lives and those moments that throw us off kilter**, God we seek **your steadying hand and guidance**, and trust that you will **provide opportunities for our gifts, our voices and our presence for the world**, for this time, wherever and however we find ourselves **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Anthony and Anne we pray **for all those out of work and struggling** during this global pandemic. We also pray **that we would remember the**

global nature of this pandemic (it isn't just the United States that has been affected). We ask **for God's care and provision** to be with us in the midst of this difficult time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry we give thanksgiving to God **for technological advances that enhance our senses** - our hearing, our sight. We are especially grateful **that Harry was able to hear the outdoor worship service without any trouble** last Thursday! ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Liz, we offer prayers for her cousin **Jane**, whose cat, **Billy**, passed away. **Ease her broken heart** and may the love Billy shared in his living, continue to bless her ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray with Katie for her friend **Seth** who was in a car accident. We give **thanks that no one was hurt**, and that he is doing okay and was able to walk away from the incident unscathed. We pray **for his recovery** from the trauma of the accident and ask, God, that **he would especially feel the support of family and friends** in this time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Andrew we ponder the wonder of God:
"During all times (not just hard times like these) **the Lord is our stronghold**. He is **saving and compassionate, loving and powerful, merciful and forgiving**. We remember what God has done. Lord, **we give thanks to you**. For you have the **power to rescue us**. And we ask **for your help, Lord, in dealing with our problems**. Through prayer, **all things are possible** unto him who asketh." ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn, we mourn with sadness the tragic circumstances surrounding the death of North Carolinian, **Andy Banks**, whose body was found over the course of the past week. Please continue to pray **for his heartbroken friends and family**. **May the joy and friendship he offered so many continue to enrich their lives as a blessing** and may the **peace of Christ** that passes all understanding find and meet them in their sorrow ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God we also pray for the misguided actions of **Justin Merritt** who has been arrested and charged with Andy's murder. For the **brokenness and pain** that surround his choices we ask **for your redeeming grace and healing**. We pray that Justin **repents of his actions** and the deep hurt he has caused, in addition to the taking of a life, and we pray **for your spirit of justice and righteousness to prevail** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly, we pray for all **those in the path of flooding in Houston, TX and surrounding areas** due to tropical storm Beta's deluge. We pray they are able to be **evacuated from harm** and that they **find the shelter and resources they need** in this time for their survival and the protection of those around them ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

Continued prayers for **Gretchen** as she recovers from illness, and for answers and healing ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks that **Pastor Holly's** hands continue to heal ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Marty, we ask prayers for the family and friends of **Clara Stanzin**, who passed away September 19th at the age of 95. Clara's obituary reads, "Clara will always be remembered for her kind and generous ways, putting the needs of others before her own." May her generosity continue to **inspire and be a blessing to all who knew and loved her**. God, comfort Marty, and those mourning her death and missing her life. May Clara **find rest with you ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, 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 ...*

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 ...*

With Andrew we celebrate this poem, handwritten by his mother, **Eleanor Jackson Thoresen**, in a book belonging to his grandmother, **Lucia Angell Jackson**:

"Lest prayers be forgot -
Prayer is so simple -
It is like quietly opening a door
And slipping into the very presence of God,
There in the stillness
To listen for his voice,
Perhaps to petition,
Or only to listen,
It matters not;
Just to be there,
In his presence
Is prayer!"
- Sarah Nichols Guild

For the gift of **Andrew's mother and grandmother**, for their life and the love they shared in their living, and for the gift of this poem we are able to receive of them posthumously, we give thanks! **May their memories be eternal ... 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

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.

Creative Callings

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



Boston University School of Theology
Center for Practical Theology

Creative Callings Hub Gathering - October 3rd! 9am - 1pm

Please RSVP if you are able to attend:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-4ZBjhKuSzPOcftQ69sc1N3swC5CuvpKcFBHkTk8VA7Ya2w/vi/ewform?usp=sf_link

Anyone from the congregation can attend this Zoom gathering related to our participation in Creative Callings with Boston University. If you have questions about this initiative, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, or if you would like to speak further or know more about Creative Callings, please contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

You will receive more information about Creative Callings on Oct 4th and in our fall newsletter. Our first congregational conversation is to be held on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30pm. We will be joined by discernment coach, Rev. Mark Slaughter, from Vibrant Faith Ministries as part of our journey. Join us on Oct 8th as we gather in community to begin this long awaited process!

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.

Newsletter keep an eye out for our most recent issue of our Newsletter, *InSpire*. There you will find important information about worship, Creative Callings, stewardship and financial giving, as well as our upcoming capital campaign and building and organ restoration projects. There is a lot happening at FBC Needham this fall and I encourage you to actively participate in the life-giving ministry and discernment taking place in our community.

News! News! News! Worship with Us on the Lawn!

Sunday Worship - on the lawn beginning Oct 4th at 10am!*

***Sunday, October 11th, our church will worship with FBC Newton via Zoom**
(Pastor Daryn is preaching).

We will then gather again for **outdoor worship on the lawn on October 18th** and going forward.

Our last Thursday worship gathering will be Oct 1st at 6pm

In order to make room for **Creative Callings Zoom gatherings on Thursday evenings.**

(cont'd on next page)



~ *Reservations Required for Worship!* ~

Preregister to attend at the following link: www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries

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.

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 (rain, snow or if the forecast calls for temperatures below 55 degrees fahrenheit). In the event of poor weather we will gather via Zoom. **Zoom links for worship can be found on the password protected member page of our website (www.fbcneedham.org).** **The password for our community page will be shared via our fall newsletter and email.** Please do not share our community Zoom links on social media or with others you do not know or trust.

Do not share our password for our website with anyone beyond our church community as there is contact information provided in our online directory that others may not appreciate being shared. Thank you for understanding. Blessings to you all!

As always, if you have questions or concerns about anything, or prayer requests you would like held by our community, contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org or Pastor Holly, pastorholly@fbcneedham.org, or our church office: Robin Bevilacqua, churchoffice@fbcneedham.org.



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