

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 31



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, October 18th

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 33:12-23

Psalm 96:1-13

Matthew 22:15-22



Sermon

Join us for outdoor or Zoom worship this Sunday at 10am, or watch the recorded service on our website, www.fbcneedham.org. Zoom links are on the member page of our website.

The password for our member page is in your newsletter. If you do not have it, contact pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

Song of Response

He Hideth My Soul

arr. Fanny Crosby

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "He Hideth My Soul", as sung by Fountainview Academy, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuTTYKMBp6I>.

Verse 1:

A wonderful savior is Jesus my Lord, a wonderful savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see. [Refrain]

Verse 2:

A wonderful savior is Jesus my Lord, He taketh my burden away;
He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved, He giveth me strength as my day.

Verse 3:

We numberless blessings each moment He crowns, and filled with His fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, Oh, glory to God, for such a Redeemer as mine! [Refrain]

Refrain:

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock that shadows a dry thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of his love, and covers me there with His hand,
and covers me there with His hand.

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 as we are accustomed, 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 continue to offer prayers **for our congregation** as we begin Creative Callings, 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

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

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 **work together, and to receive clarity, moving 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 ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We celebrate the gifts of **Rev. Mark Slaughter** as a guiding presence and coach through the Creative Callings process ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We pray with Clif for the well being of **our tenants** throughout Creative Callings and beyond it, and that whatever our calling, that **our building** will serve as a blessing to our community for many years to come ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Harry, we celebrate **the hard work, and resulting beauty and deliciousness of gardening ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Dorothy and Harry we give thanks **for all the ways we have of staying in touch** with one another, email, Zoom, and phone calls, and occasional visits with friends and loved ones ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With John, we celebrate **that his family was able to safely gather** for his **son's birthday**, with sons and daughter in laws and all six grandchildren gathered together after months of careful quarantining. We pray their circle of family **stays healthy and is able to continue to visit with one another** throughout the months to come ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Clif, John and Dianne, we pray **for a friend** who is currently **in jail and awaiting trial**, as he has been for two years. God we pray that you will **remind him that he is not alone** and that **you are with him** in the midst of this difficult situation. We pray that **your truth is revealed** and that it **guides the result of the trial and all outcomes to follow ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We pray for **Andrew's niece in Colorado**, who is in her senior year of high school - we pray **that all of the challenges of this particular year would not detract from the accomplishments and meaningful experiences** of her education and the joy of her competitive jump roping season ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Louise we give thanks **for the things that keep us warm as the colder air sets in**, for cozy socks and warm feet ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif we give thanks **for the rain and the beauty of the fall foliage** ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Barbara, we offer **prayers for the Wingate community** - for the **residents' and workers' health and peace of mind**. As the weather gets colder, and visits are limited once more, we hold the Wingate residents in our hearts and **lament the lack of connection they feel to loved ones** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Anne Wile, we pray for **Bruce** who was **admitted to the hospital ICU with a fever and laboured breathing**. We pray **for his peace and that the love of Jesus surrounds him** in this time. We pray **for his swift recovery**, and **for the wisdom and presence of mind of the medical staff** tending to his care ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For those navigating the uncertainty of nature, particularly as it writhes and wrestles against the stresses we place upon it, we pray ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We offer prayers for **Liz** as she **undergoes dental assessment and treatment** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to pray for **Andrew** who is still **recovering from acute pharyngitis**. For his **healing and comfort** in this time, the **soothing** of his throat and vocal chords, and that he **regains the fullness of his voice and energies** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Bev we pray for **Trevor's healing and recovery**, and that his medications continue to do the good work of **healing his body and spirit**. We give thanks that he is improving ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

Dorothy Kinne prays **for the good health and wellness of our congregation**, and offers **gratitude to God for the health and wellbeing of her family**. Louise Mason is also **grateful for the health of her family and that we all continue to take care of each other as best we can** through these days ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

We pray **for Liz's productivity** as she works through home projects and the scraping and repainting of her porch, **that she is able to accomplish all that needs to be done** before the weather gets too cold to continue ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Andrew, we continue to pray for and remember **Pastor Holly's Uncle Tom** in this time of mourning and grief over **the recent loss of his lifelong companion, Deb**. We ask **for prayers of comfort and healing** for Tom as he holds and honors Deb's memory in and through his living ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We offer our gratitude that Pastor Holly's parents, **Emily and Dave**, are **safe in the wake of recent hurricanes** ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Andrew, we give thanks that **Wren tested negative for COVID-19!** We also offer **gratitude for Wren and Carmen's successful transition onto a new town** in Oklahoma, that Wren is enjoying her new job as a home health aid ...***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...***

We celebrate with **Gretchen** the prospect of a **new job in Raleigh, NC** and pray **for her as she navigates this time and anticipates a move south**. We look forward to **celebrating her baptism in the next few weeks**, prior to her move to Raleigh. We give thanks **for the many ways God is opening doors for Gretchen** in life and in her faith journey ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

With Andrew, we give thanks **for first responders and health care workers**, and pray for their continued safety as they seek for and work toward the safety of those around them ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

God, with Pastor Daryn, we hold her college friend, **Rev. Janie McElwee Smith**, and her two boys as they say goodbye to their dad, and Janie's husband, **Brad**. Brad went into sudden cardiac arrest and struggled with

elevated carbon dioxide levels following a scheduled surgical procedure. Cardiac doctors confirmed today that he will not regain consciousness. For **Janie and their boys, and for the family and loved ones of Brad**, we pray **that they will be surrounded and held by the light and love of community** in this difficult time. The **peace of Christ** which passes all understanding be with them, and **may the prayers that encircle them offer some comfort**. We pray **that Brad's memory will be an eternal blessing** to all who loved him **and an inspiration to his boys**. May **Christ's peace, light and love accompany Brad** as he enters a new and beautiful realm of God's perpetual care and grace where there is no more suffering or pain, and **may a little of that beauty and light find its way to those remembering Brad** and holding him in their hearts ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we pray **that folks would heed the advice of mask wearing and social distancing**, and that we would hold in our hearts **the compassion and wisdom** to know that while we are in this very different time of living through a pandemic, we must **take added precautions**, we **must sacrifice** the things we are accustomed to doing **for the sake of a better outcome for all**, for the well being of our neighbors and those we love, and God, ...

...we recognize **with the wisdom of young Anna**, that if we could just freeze everyone in place for 14 days we would defeat this virus by keeping it from spreading - it could die out in 14 days as there are no viable paths of transmission than from human to human. While we cannot freeze everyone, **by keeping isolated and apart, by wearing masks and socially distancing we can go a long way to eradicating this threat to our wellbeing**. God, **keep us from working against guidelines, against caution. Bolster us in our resolve** to love enough, to care enough, to be careful with one another and ourselves ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly we pray that **those scientists and research institutions seeking successful vaccines and medical treatments would not be used as political pawns, or their intelligence and integrity undermined** as they strive to uphold the standards of healthcare, medicine, and scientific process that have allowed them to become premier medical research institutions and scientists the world over - that **as they are trying to save lives that they would not be pressured or forced to hold to political timelines** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Jim and Clif, we pray **that our election and voting will go smoothly and safely**, and that there will be a **peaceful transition, whatever the outcome**. We also pray **your justice and your truth be revealed, and that**

the process will be free of corruption, suppression, obstruction, and deception ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray that **any who interfere in or seek to undermine our election process, or those seeking to create discord or violence leading up to or following the election, therefore undermining the stability of our democracy** - such as the right wing extremists and domestic terrorists plotting to kidnap and harm local and state leaders in Michigan and Virginia, and those threatening civil war if the election does not go their way - that they will be **held accountable** for their actions and their malicious intentions. We pray **for their repentance and for your guiding hand upon the hearts of our nation. Protect us** from forces that would divide and deceive us, that would turn us against one another, or convince us to harm one another, and **lead us to you, O God**, our rock and our redeemer, to your justice, your truth, and your way of seeing ... ***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 ...***

We continue to offer prayers 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.

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.*

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

If you have questions about Creative Callings, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, please contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

Reserve Thursdays at 6:30pm for our congregational conversations for discernment via Zoom!

You should have received a packet of information and guidance specific to Creative Callings. If you did not receive this packet, please contact Pastor Daryn or the church office.

Join us for a Q & A session with Rev. Drs. Michelle Walsh and Clyde Grubbs on **October 22nd at 6:30pm via Zoom**. Our next **Partner Testimony Video** will be posted Sunday, **October 25th**, on our website.

Please watch the posted videos and follow the guiding questions in your Creative Callings packet (also on our website; contact the church office for a copy if you did not receive it). Then bring your thoughts and questions to our **Zoom Congregational Conversations and Q & A sessions on Thursdays at 6:30pm**.

The Zoom link and password for Creative Callings can be found in the newsletter and Creative Callings packet you should have received. They are also on the member page on our website and our Creative Callings webpage. If you do not have the login information for Zoom and or the password for our Creative Callings page, please contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org, and she will make sure you have access to the online gathering.

At My Neighbor's Table Sunday, October 18 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

What Kind Of Communities Do We Want To Live In? Examining Housing Policies Through a Lens of Equity

Join us for an interfaith conversation on how we can bring ourselves closer to a larger and more inclusive community.

We will explore and discuss why there are high levels of racial, ethnic, and economic segregation in our communities and what we can do about it.

Presenter: Jennifer Raitt



- Director of Planning and Community Development, Arlington, MA.
- Town of Brookline Housing Advisory Board
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council Executive Committee

The Greater Boston Housing Report Card 2019 said:

"Massachusetts ... has a long history of overt segregation in housing policies"

**RSVP at: amnthousing.eventbrite.com
and please share on social media!**



At My Neighbor's Table Series

**Sunday, October 18, 2020
5:00 - 6:30 PM**

This event is Free but limited

Kindly register by Wednesday, Oct 13th to find some quick videos to watch in advance.

Event Zoom link will be sent to registrants when sign up ends at 12 PM on Sunday, October 18th

Sponsors:

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries, Baha'i Community in Needham, Carter Memorial UMC, Christ Episcopal Church, Congregational Church of Needham UCC, Equal Justice Needham, First Baptist Church in Needham, First Parish in Needham Unitarian Universalist, Grace Lutheran Church, League of Women Voters of Needham, League of Women Voters of Westwood/Walpole/Dedham, Progressive Needham, Needham Diversity Initiative, Needham Human Rights Committee, Temple Beth Shalom, Wellesley Friends Meeting
These groups have come together to support this event

For questions, please contact: info@coopmet.org

The At My Neighbor's Table Series in Needham has been holding conversations about race and equity since 2017. The topic for our next session on October 18, 2020 is examining housing policies through a lens of equity. LWV-Needham is a sponsor of this event. Join us for an interfaith conversation on how we can bring ourselves closer to a larger and more inclusive community. Please register by Wednesday, October 13, to join us in this timely and relevant conversation. Kindly share this invitation with other interested parties. Register at [amnthousing.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) by Wednesday, October 13.

Date: Sunday, October 18

Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Registration Website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/at-my-neighbors-table-what-kind-of-communities-do-we-want-to-live-in-tickets-122715757133>

Worship with Us on the Lawn/Zoom! Sunday mornings at 10am



~ *Reservations Required for Worship on the lawn!* ~

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 is in the fall newsletter and/or email you should have received.** 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 church webpage 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.

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 accepting donations by appointment only at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.



THEME: BEHOLD! THE TIME IS NOW! **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**

Please join us...

There will be three separate sessions....join us for one or for as many as you wish.

Session One | 10am to 11:30

Presenters: Staff and Pastor Rev. Dr. Chery from Source of Light Church in Somerville will share with us about the special community outreach mission of their church during Covid 19

Session Two | 1:30 pm to 3pm

Presenters: Rev. Julie Flowers and her team from FBC Beverly will share about how their church has grown exponentially through their online offerings as well as hands on mission they are doing feeding folks in their community.

Session Three | 6:30 Pm- 8pm

Our Keynote speaker, The Rev. Willie Bodrick, Pastor Elect at the historic 12th Baptist Church in Boston – preaching on our Scripture 2nd Corinthians 6:1-2." Behold- now is the time!"

In addition to these terrific presenters we will have prayer time, worship time, and breakout discussion rooms where we will be able to share with each other about mission

Topic: Missionworks Virtual Conference

Time: Oct 17, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/4307410515?pwd=eUtvdFlmdWc4OHB4OTdHVIRldWVs4dz09>

Meeting ID: 430 741 0515

Password: 914972

For more information, please contact Rev. Christine Keddy, keddy@tabcom.org.

Newsletter Check out 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. To receive a copy, email churchoffice@fbcneedham.org.

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