

First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 32



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, October 25th

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?

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon

Join us for outdoor worship this Sunday at 11am, or watch the recorded service on our website, www.fbcneedham.org.

Song of Response

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

ASSAM

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus", as sung by SPUC Song Leaders of Hope Channel South Philippines Studio, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjQml5WH7tk>.

Verse 1:

I have decided to follow Jesus. (x3)

No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 2:

The world behind me,
the cross before me. (x3)

No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 3:

Though no one joins me,
still I will follow. (x3)

No turning back, no turning back.

Verse 4:

I have decided to follow Jesus. (x3)

No turning back, no turning back.



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 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 give thanks for **Spiro Stylianopoulos, Marty Fassett, and Anna McWhorter** who are celebrating birthdays in the coming week, **for the gift of their presence and belovedness** in the world ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We pray for Barbara's son, **Stephen Michael Arnold**, who **suffered a mini stroke**. We give thanks that he is **now at home** with his family and seems to be recovering. God **hold him in your tender care ... 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** last week. We offer our gratitude **for his recovery, and all who have tended to his care** in this uncertain time ... *... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With John C. we offer prayers of **thanksgiving for all the moments of beauty and blessing we get to witness throughout our lives**, and for the **reassurance** they offer, particularly challenging times. We specifically offer **gratitude for the grandchildren** that have been born to John's family over the past few months, and for **the prayers of the First Baptist community** that have held his family and our church family each week ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Katie, we offer prayers for **Sophie and her family** who are going through a difficult time ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray along with Elaine **for all those who are out of work or navigating unemployment**. God, **reassure their hearts and lead them to new and fulfilling opportunities**. **Remind them that they are of infinite worth and value to you**, and that their value is not dependent on what they earn in this

life, but on their belovedness as a child of your very own care and delight ...
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

We hold Liz's cousin, **Alicia**, in our prayers as her family navigates a time of conflict and relational stress. God **offer your peace, your wisdom and your grace** as they seek ways to heal ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif, we offer **thanks for opportunities to see one another in person**. We are grateful **that Clif's family was able to safely gather together for the first time since Christmas!** For the joy of being together ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We give thanks **for the family visits that have been permitted at Wingate**, and hold **the residents** in our prayers as the weather and an increase in COVID-19 will likely bring these precious opportunities for connection to a standstill. God, **be with the residents and their families** as they prepare for a time of prolonged separation from one another. **Help them to know your presence and your love** in this time especially, and **allow the love and prayers** of each resident, each family member, of our church to surround them in one big comforting hug of beautiful community ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Anna Claire we give thanks for the joy of having her little cousin, CJ, in the world. We celebrate CJ's 4th birthday and give thanks **for each new year of life we celebrate** and the **opportunities** each year holds ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We offer a **prayer for our world and for our country** as we approach an election. We pray **that we will see one another as beloved children of God, that we will not be lured into vilification of the other** and that rather than relying on the labels that identify us as Democrat or Republican, left or right, **we would see one another as neighbors and partners** in our efforts to better our world, to seek justice and wholeness for one another and for ALL of our neighbors ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks **for the worship resource and calls of caring** that keep our homebound members in the loop and help us to connect through prayer with one another, and more broadly with all those who avail themselves of this resource and our services online ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We give thanks for **Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly**, for the pastoral provision they have offered throughout their time at First Baptist. Our prayers accompany them as they continue to lead us in creative, meaningful and life-giving ministry, as they pray for our community, and encourage us toward the new thing that you are calling us to do. Blessings to them in this month of pastoral appreciation, and over the course of their unique journeys of faith ... ***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...***

God, with Harry, we pray **for the United States citizens casting their votes** – that our elections be free of fraud, corruption, and suppression, and that all have access to voting and the ability to vote freely, without hindrance ... ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Harry, we offer prayers for **Amy Coney Barrett**, for her family and for all those involved in her judicial confirmation hearing – we pray **that a just resolution will be reached, and that if she is confirmed, her service will be informed, fair and impartial, and will uphold the rights and dignity of all our neighbors and fellow Americans ...** ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We continue to pray for **Ernie Steeves**. We give thanks **that he is feeling a bit better** - that his new form of treatment is not as difficult on his body, less invasive on his time, and more conducive to a fulfilling quality of life. God, **for his continued and renewed strength** – and **for a healthier appetite each day**, we pray. We ask **that he be made fully aware of our love and the love of God surrounding him ...** ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Clif, John and Dianne, we continue to pray **for a friend** who is **awaiting trial**. God, **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 continue to pray for **Andrew** who is still **recovering from acute pharyngitis ...** ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

With Jim, we pray **for his sister, Kathy ...** ***Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...***

We continue to offer prayers for **Helen** as **she awaits a word from her medical team concerning her post-radiation scans and prognosis**. Help

her to feel **the reassuring presence of your Spirit and the love of our community ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Bev, we pray **for peace in our world ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Bev, we hold **Trevor** in our hearts as **his health continues to improve** day by day. We celebrate that **he is more alert and sleeping less during the days, and that his numbers are going down**, a sign of an effective treatment plan ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We hold **our country** in our hearts as we see **the number of COVID-19 cases increase**. We pray **for all those affected by this virus and for those families who have lost those precious to them ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, with Harry we pray **for a safe and effective vaccine to come quickly ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Ernie and Louise we pray **for our church family**, for each person's health and well being ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Louise we give thanks that **George and her family** are doing well ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We hold Barbara's roommate, **Edith**, in our prayers. Edith stopped eating last week, and is actively dying. God, **may your presence and light be with her and her family as she transitions to being held by you in a new way**. God, **offer your comfort to Edith's family and offer your peace to Barbara**. **May Barbara's presence to Edith and Edith's family be a blessing in this time, and may Edith's memory be a lasting and life-giving one to those who loved her ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, we give thanks for the joy of celebrating **Gretchen** today, **on the day of her baptism**, her public profession of the decision to follow in the way of Jesus. God, we pray **that she will always be rooted in the goodness of God - that she will never doubt she is loved and has love to offer this world**. **May the peace of Christ which passes all understanding accompany her each day of her lived journey of faith, and your light continually shine in and through her witness in this world ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We hold Gretchen in our hearts and offer our prayers for her transition to a **new home and job in Raleigh, NC ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

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 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 ...**

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.*

Take a Selfie for Ingathering Sunday! Throughout the month of November, we will be collecting pictures of our congregation members making their donations and pledges. Take a selfie (a photograph of yourself with your phone - or have someone else take one of you) mailing in your pledge or making an online donation to the church. We will compile the images into a collage that will be featured in our Worship Resource on Ingathering Sunday (Thanksgiving Sunday), Nov 22nd!

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

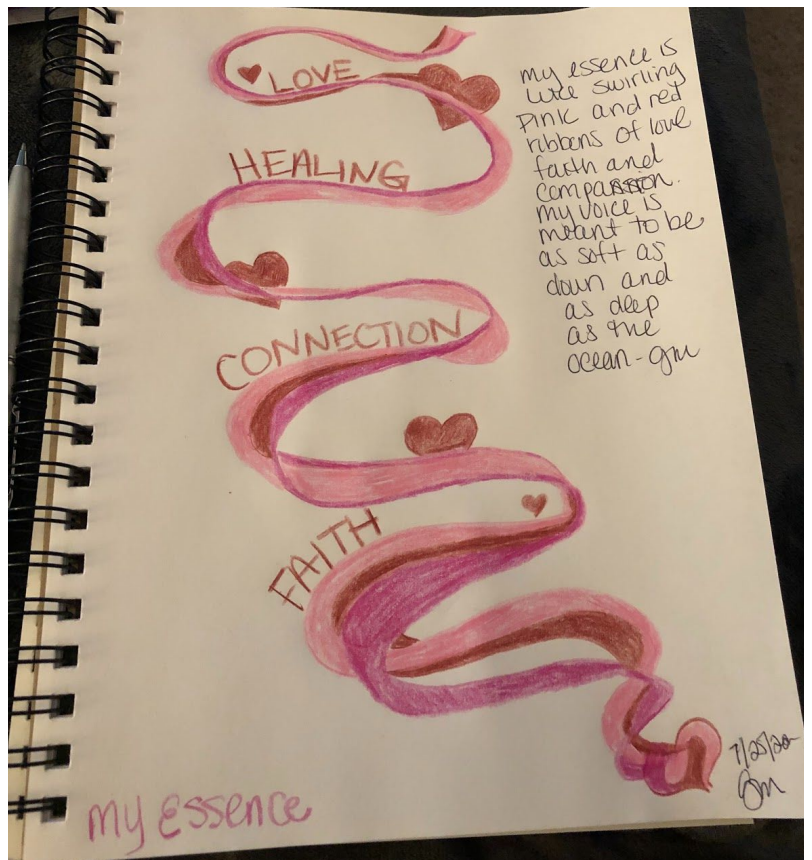
this world and beyond, offering peace, hope and light wherever the journey leads.

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.



All Saints' Day

Submit any names you have for remembrance and celebration to the church office via email or phone call before **Tuesday, Oct 27th!**

churchoffice@fbcneedham.org, 781-400-5867.

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 the church office.

Our next **Partner Testimony Video** will be posted Sunday, **October 25th**, on our website. This video testimony comes from Rev. Karen Doucette. We will gather via Zoom for a community reflection on her video next Thursday, Oct 29th at 6:30pm.

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 the packet. 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.

Worship with Us on the Lawn
Sunday morning, Oct 25th at 11am
*Plan to stay after the service if you are able for
a special service of baptism*

~ *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.

~NOVEMBER WORSHIP~

Throughout the month of November, we are invited to
Zoom Sunday services with the communities of
First Baptist Church in Newton (10am) &
First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain (11am):

Zoom links for worship can be found on the password protected member page of our website (www.fbcneedham.org). We will also make an effort to email/text the Zoom links prior to the services. Please make sure your email and/or phone information is current with the Church Office if you are interested in receiving these notifications. The password for our community is in the fall newsletter and/or email you should have received. Please do not share 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.

Worship Resource

We are aware how much the Worship Resource and Calls of Caring mean to our community, particularly to those of our community members unable to attend services in person or via Zoom. We will continue with the publication of these materials and with our calls each week, although we will make an effort not to call during the time of Zoom services on Sunday mornings. Blessings, all!

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.

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.

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