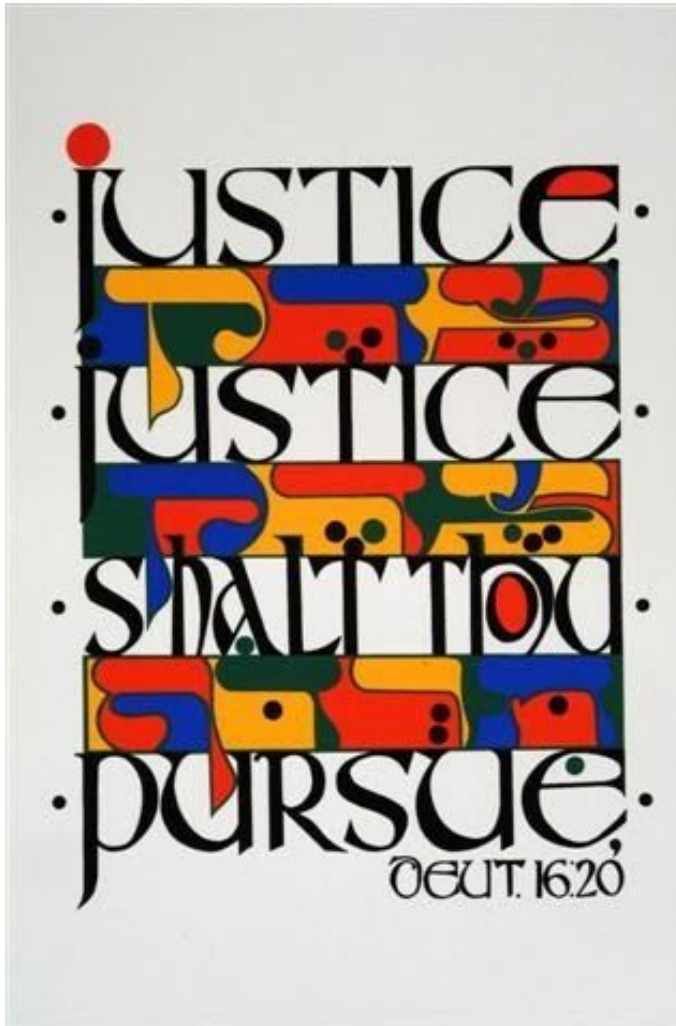


First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org



23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 34

Worship and Prayer Resource Sunday, November 8th 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?

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon

You are encouraged to **join First Baptist Newton (10am) or First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain (11am) for Zoom worship throughout the month of November.** Links to these church services will be provided via email and text message. If you would like to receive updates and links, please email pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

You may also appreciate watching one of our recorded outdoor services or listening to the sermons posted on our website, www.fbcneedham.org (go to Worship From Home).

Song of Response

Take My Life and Let it Be

HENDON

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Take My Life and Let it Be", as sung by the Norton Hall Band, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2zt7PzHPqk>.

Verse 1:

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Verse 2:

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee;
take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my king.

Verse 3:

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless
praise.

Verse 4 (not in video):

Take my will, and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.



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

BENZENHAFFER

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...

With Harry we pray **for our country and that the election will be fair and just, free of cheating and fraud**, particularly as we await the final election tallies. We pray **that it will be a safe process for all ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif we pray **for unity in our country and in our congregation** as we look beyond this election ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For our world, God, and particularly for our country - help us to see one another as your beloved children, each one as a child of God, and to **hold one another's dignity more fully. Re-humanize us in each other's eyes**, and we pray **that love will be lived out in and through this election and beyond it ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We hold **Jessica and family** in our prayers in the wake of earthquakes that affected Turkey. We give thanks **that their family is safe and doing well**, and we pray with them **for all those who were in more affected areas - for those who have lost loved ones**. God we pray **for their peace and for the rebuilding of their hope and their communities ...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We give thanks **that Jessica has found a teaching job that is life giving for her ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

As **Jessica** juggles life, teaching, and her own schooling as well as that of her children, we pray **for her strength and persistence**. Give her the **knowledge, time and focus to finish her degree ...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, with Ernie, we celebrate **grilled cheeses, football, friends and family, and give thanks that he had a beautiful Sunday of fellowship with friends at the Village Club.** We offer **gratitude for moments of joy** in the midst of difficult times. For Ernie's continued **healing and courage** through his cancer treatments ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Ernie we offer our **appreciation for a community of faith that holds us each week in prayer.** For the **good folks of First Baptist Church in Needham,** we give thanks ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Andrew, we give thanks for his sister, **Wendy's safety and that of her family,** for the **preservation of her family home that lay in the path of Colorado's East Troublesome wildfire.** We pray for all those affected by the **Grand Lake and Grand County wildfires in Colorado.** For all those **who were not so fortunate - who have lost property and loved ones - for their peace and provision of comfort ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We give thanks that **Louise** is feeling better! Praise God **for her healing and for her joyous spirit** which once again is able to manifest fully in her life ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We remember Ernie's neighbor, **Ann Cosgrove** in our prayers as **she continues to move through a regimen of treatment for cancer.** God, your **healing spirit be upon her** and your **peace accompany her** through each moment of trial and difficulty ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We hold Liz's friends, **Peter and Colleen,** who lost their **dog, Penny** to illness this past week. We give thanks **for the unconditional love and companionship of Penny,** and pray **for their hearts' healing in this time of grief.** May something of Penny's memory bring joy to them in days to come ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, we give thanks **for new hobbies and the spirit to experiment and try new things in this time of COVID-19.** We give thanks for **Harry's newfound joy of reading** and for **new forms of art technology** that allow him to revisit a hobby of cartooning ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

As we bear witness to the **COVID-19 case numbers on the rise** once more throughout the world, God we ask that you would **help us to navigate this**

time with great care and precaution. Grant us the wisdom to find creative and safe ways to be together and keep one another close in our hearts in this time. Help us lift one another's spirits and burdens and to continue in vigilance to hold one another in prayer and action. Fill us with your grace ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...

With Clif, we remember **those for whom being homebound is difficult. Particularly as we head into the winter months, we hold all those who are more likely to feel isolated, lonely, and depressed. God help them to feel your love and presence, give them a creative energy that manifests where they are, and help us to reach out to one another in creative and inventive ways to offer a little joy and light to our neighbors in this time of need ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, with Dorothy, we pray **for an end to COVID-19 and for a safe and effective vaccine to come quickly ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, with Louise, we pray **for our families, our friends and our church ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Harry we celebrate **Jean Chin's** memory, her loveliness and her care and compassion for the world and her family. We offer **gratitude for her life** in this week following her birthday, and are **grateful that Harry was able to go to the cemetery with family** to honor her life and memory. **Be with Harry as he remembers her - may there be many moments of light filled peace intermingled with any sorrow ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Bev, we give thanks **that Trevor is feeling more alert and has regained some appetite and joy** as he continues to recover from illness **...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

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 ...**

With Bev, we give **thanks for all the decorations folks are putting up to cheer the spirits of others ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We continue to hold **Nancy's friend, Mary**, in our hearts as she accompanies her sister, **Carol**, through her heartbreaking struggle with cancer. As Carol's health continues to decline, **be with her, God. Shower her with light and the warmth of your love and healing presence.**

Accompany Mary as she prepares her own heart for the grief of losing a dear sister and friend. God, in this difficult time, **we continue to hope and pray for your healing - not only of bodies but of hearts.** We know that no matter what happens to us in this earthly life, you are with us through it all and accompany us to the glory you have prepared for us beyond it. Yet, still it is hard to be separated from those we love, even with the knowledge they will be with you. **We pray for your eternal and everlasting care of Carol and Mary. Grant them your love and your peace as they move through this difficult time. Grant Mary strength and help her to feel the love of community and our prayers ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Dorothy we give thanks **for all the hard work and effort of our pastors** who are reaching out each week through calls and the worship resource. We give thanks, with Dot and Ernie, **for the worship resource and the prayers each week that hold us together as a community and keep us informed so that we can pray and participate fully in the life of our church.** We offer **gratitude for our pastors, and their caring, and for all they do to remind us we are held in love by community and by God ...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.

Hymns under copyright are used by permission under CCLI # 763542.

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.

Security Adjustments

Changing Member Page Password: email or call Pastor Daryn for the NEW password for our church membership page. Our Creative Callings password is the same as before.

The membership directory has been taken down from the website for now. Please let Pastor Daryn know if you need to be in touch with someone in the community pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.



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.

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.** Our next **Partner Testimony video from Rev. Jill Barnes-Buckley will be posted on Sunday, November 8th on our Creative Callings webpage.**

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.

~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. **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. 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 and Calls of Caring will continue!

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.

Text and Photo Attributions:

Cover image: "Pursue Justice" by Mordechai Rosenstein; "Lamp of Wisdom" sculpture, Waterperry Gardens (Oxfordshire, UK); Black Lives Matter protest artwork by Hust Wilson; Use with permission.