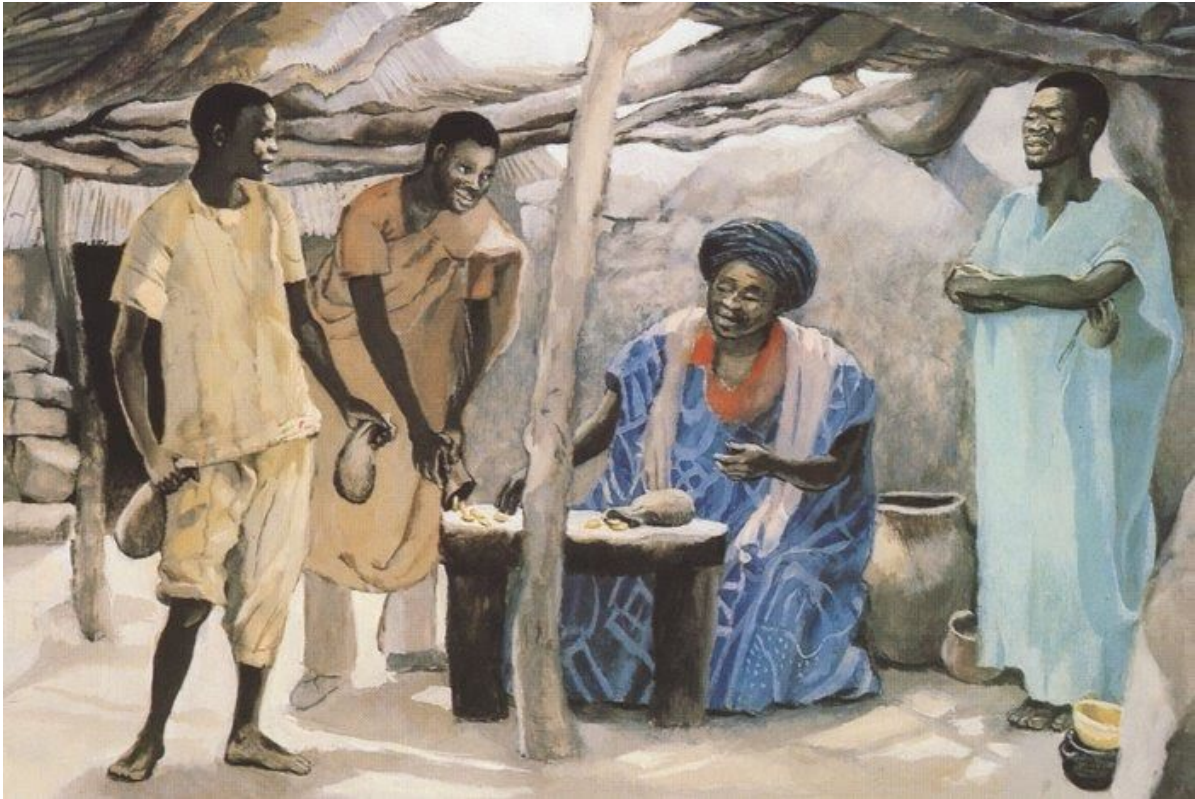


First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org



24th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 35

Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, November 15th

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?

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalms 90:1-12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

I once heard a pastor flip the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14-30) on its head for me ... rather than being read as a commentary on the wastefulness or not

of our gifts or resources God has given us (as I had so often heard it read), she read the text as an economic/social justice commentary on the economic systems of our world that privilege and benefit those who already have plenty - and even incentivize wealth and surplus, while taking what little the poor have away from them so effortlessly-relegating them to cultural realms of isolation and hopelessness, to endless cycles of poverty. It was an incredibly insightful reading of the text. How would such a reading change this passage and messages of good news in your ears and heart? What would the calling be for us in such a reading of the text?



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 **Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us** BRADBURY

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us", as sung by the Weimar Chamber Singers, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGFHhoykILg>.

Verse 1:

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

Verse 2:

We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.

Verse 3 (not in video):

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.

Verse 4:

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

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...

With Clif, Dorothy, Marty and Ernie we remember **Alex Trebek**. We celebrate **the kindness and decency he brought to the world**, and his years as a part of our families and routines as host of *Jeopardy*. We give thanks for

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

the **positive influence he had in the world and the gift he was to it. May his memory be an eternal testament to the goodness he hoped to convey in his living ...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Ernie, God, we remember **Sean Connery** – a giant of screen and entertainment. We give thanks **for the sharing of his gifts and talents** with the world. **Peace to his family and to his fans** the world over *...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Dorothy, Louise, Marty and Harry, we celebrate the moments when our families are well. In the midst of this pandemic we are **grateful for moments of good health ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

For the **beautiful weather** we have experienced this past week, we offer our thanksgiving *...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

God, with Anne, we give thanks that **Bruce is doing well at Wingate. For the window visits that continue to sustain their family** while they wait for appointments to see one another, we offer gratitude and pray for the continued health of all *...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

As we prepare our hearts and homes for this long winter ahead, we ask that you would **comfort us**, particularly those of us **anxious about being confined to our homes a great deal of the time due to COVID-19 ...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, we give thanks for the news that there is at least one **vaccine on the horizon** that appears to be effective. We are so **thankful for all the folks that contributed their time and talent to its development**, and for all **those who have been willing to serve as guinea pigs so that we might have a treatment soon**. We recognize that nothing is certain and that any vaccine will take time. We pray **that we will all have the persistence and will to make good decisions for the sake of all those we love** in the meantime *...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We are grateful for the **intention and faithfulness with which our congregation is engaging decisions about its future**. For the Creative Callings process and the **dedication exhibited by our leadership** to hold possibility. We are thankful for all **those who have shown up willing and curious**. We are grateful for the **opportunity to examine multiple expressions of ministry and meaning**, and to do so free of crisis or restraints. It is **liberating to explore beyond preconceived notions of what**

church can look like, to get creative in our seeking and in our receptiveness to God's creative purpose for the life of this community
...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...

We give thanks for the legacy of **Jack Fasset** who in his ministry led many a church through explorations of possibility, similarly to Creative Callings. It is **comforting to know that there is a part of our heritage that is connected** to the process we are endeavoring to faithfully carry out *...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 ...**

We give thanks for **George** who takes such good care of **Louise**, and we celebrate that **they have one another** to keep each other company ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Ernie, we offer prayers for his neighbor **Ann Cosgrove** who continues to move through scheduled chemotherapy treatments for cancer. God, **ease her discomfort and allow her to feel the prayers of this community as well as those of friends and family** holding her through this time. May your enduring love accompany her ...**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, with Pastor Daryn we give thanks that her neighbor **Sal LaFace** received uplifting news this past week that his **cancer is in remission** ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We receive with full hearts **Ernie's gratitude for the prayer and concern the First Baptist community has demonstrated for him** – for all those who have poured out their love and care for Ernie in this time of treatment, we give thanks along with him ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We continue to hold **Ernie** in prayer as he goes for another round of cancer treatments Monday ...**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With **Mark Holly** we celebrate **the opportunity to live out dreams and passions** – for his recent trip to Nashville to record some songs he has written, we give thanks and pray **that the creative spirit will continue to move him and all of us into new opportunities and moments of fulfillment** ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Liz, we celebrate the **2nd birthday** of her **beloved neighbor, Noel**. **Blessings of joy to Noel and to her family** as they celebrate the gift of her presence in this world ...**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 ...**

God we pray **for all those who are disconcerted by the earthquakes** that Massachusetts has felt over the past week. We also acknowledge again how fragile our world can be and seem, and the necessary **imperative for us to care for our world and the environment ...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Clif, we celebrate **a friend's exciting news of employment** with Riverside Community Care ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With our Needham community, we offer **gratitude for Rev. Gary Shaw and his faithful service to Carter Memorial Methodist Church and our Needham community** as he looks to retire this year. **Blessings of abundant peace to him and to his family** as they embark on this new trajectory of life, and may **your comforting presence be with them and all of the Carter Memorial Church family** in this time of transition and change ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray **for all the veterans - all those who have sacrificed something of their lives in the line of duty.** God, **offer your protection and provide for them and their families.** For the service they have offered for our freedoms, we honor them. For the veterans in our congregation, for **Ernie, Clif and Harry, and all the veterans we love,** we pray **for their peace,** and in their honor and in the name of Jesus, we pray **for healing in our world ...Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**



God, we pray **for the leadership of this country** - that it will be **guided by fairness, that your justice and truth will be revealed and enacted - grounded in your love** that always seeks to serve and empower those considered least in our midst and by our standards of success and wealth. God, **grant your wisdom to the governance of our nation and our participation in, and collaboration with, our global community.** We pray **for a peaceful transition of governance and for accountability** for those even at the very top of our institutions of power ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Anne we pray **that our new president does well**, particularly at bridging divides and encouraging cooperation from both sides of the aisle, and restoring healing and hope ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, with Marty and Pastor Daryn, we pray **that we will not be deceived or misled by the intentional misinformation and lies disseminated over social media**, by the intentional efforts to sow animus among people the world over and in our own country. **We pray we will not become victims** of these attempts to create atmospheres of mistrust, to topple governments and pit neighbor against neighbor. As they work to deeply entrench party against party, **let us not play their game with your help, God. Root us firmly in your love and in our love for one another that we may not fall victim to that treachery.** This seditious propaganda is not only treasonous to our nation, but it is most of all - first and foremost - treasonous to you who taught us that our primary obligation is to love you and our neighbor - even our enemies - and that **we are to strive in all that we do to seek justice, love mercy and kindness and to walk humbly in this world.** That is what we will do, with your help, God - **we will rise above the nonsense and embrace one another as beloved - seeing the Christ-light within each of us** ...*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 ...*

With Dorothy, Ernie, Harry, Clif, Anne Wile, Barbara, and Marty, we give thanks **for the worship resource and for the way it holds us all together in love and prayer ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

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!

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

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

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. **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 third Partner Testimony video from Rev. Jill Barnes-Buckley is up on our Creative Callings webpage. Our Q & A with Jill will be Thursday, November 19th 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.

~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: “Parable of the Three Servants, or The Talents” by Jesus Mafa (Cameroon); Wall of Flowers at “Boston Lights at Franklin Park Zoo: A Lantern Experience” presented by National Grid (November 2020), photo by Daryn Stylianopoulos; Butterflies at “Boston Lights at Franklin Park Zoo: A Lantern Experience” presented by National Grid (November 2020), photo by Daryn Stylianopoulos; Veteran’s Day Poster 2015

(<https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/poster/vetsday15.jpg>); “Teddy at the Turquoise Table,” photo by Daryn Stylianopoulos; Angel Wings/Pastor Angel at “Boston Lights at Franklin Park Zoo: A Lantern Experience” presented by National Grid (November 2020), photo by Fayrah Stylianopoulos. Use with permission.

