

# First Baptist Church in Needham

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

[www.fbcneedham.org](http://www.fbcneedham.org)



## 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 33

### Worship and Prayer Resource

**Sunday, November 1st  
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?*

**Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37**

**Psalm 43**

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-19**

**Revelation 7:9-17**

**Matthew 23:1-12**

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.fbcneedham.org) (go to Worship From Home).*



**Song of Response      For All the Saints      ASSAM**

*Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "For All the Saints", as sung by RSCM Millennium Youth Choir, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOC0Mb--FWY>.*

Verse 1:

For all the saints who from their labor rest,  
who thee by faith before the world confessed,  
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 2:

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might;  
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
thou in darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 3:

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine.  
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 4 (not in video):

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 5 (not in video):

But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day:  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
the King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse 6:

From earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

## 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.”<sup>1</sup>

*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...

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

We offer the following prayer along with Andrew:

*A prayer ...*

*For healing,  
For the sick,  
For children,  
For the world,  
For the dying,  
For health,  
For hope and comfort,  
For strength.*

*Thank you, Lord, for your goodness.*

*Amen.*

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.** For **any whose whereabouts are unknown**, God we pray **for their location and safety.** For the **firefighters** who have been constant and diligent in curtailing the flames, many of whom have lost property of their own, we offer **gratitude for their commitment and care for those around them**, and pray **for their well being as they recover from this ordeal ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We hold **Katie** in our prayers this week **as she prepares and seeks direction from an upcoming job interview.** For her **peace** as she anticipates the interview, and **for encouragement** from family and friends along the journey of seeking new opportunities as well as her vocation and call in the world ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Dot Kinne we give thanks **when those we love and care for are healthy and well**, and when we can offer gratitude for the goodness of our lives ...**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**



We also recognize that there are **others in our world who are struggling and finding it difficult to be grateful for their circumstances**, and who may be having a harder time than we are at any given moment. In recognition of that, God, we pray **for your presence and strength** to be known to those beloved ones, and **we send our love and prayers** their way **to reassure** all who are feeling discouraged, lost, forsaken, alone, weak, and troubled. **May they know that they are not alone - that they are held in love** by you and our community ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God we pray for **Louise**, who has been struggling in recent weeks with a **loss of memory**, and is having a **difficult time holding her mind to her present realities**. For those times when her mind drifts, taking her back to earlier memories and moments, God, we pray that you will **offer your peace and your tender mercies**, especially when they are difficult moments to revisit. When her mind takes her back to instances of loss or grief, or fear, **may your steadying hand and your presence comfort her** and bring her back to those who are with her, caring for her now. God, **may her mind more often take her to moments of celebration and joy**, to those times full of abundant love and happiness, until she is able to find her grounding in the peace of the present ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Ernie Steeves, **we celebrate the love and support** he has felt over the past several months. We give thanks **for the love and prayers** of the First Baptist congregation, and of his friends and family. He feels them all and is deeply appreciative. With Ernie, we give thanks **for his sons, Jay and Jonathan**, for their **vigilance of care and companionship**, for his **grandchildren**, and for his friend's gift of blueberry muffins each week - **for the gifts of community that sustain us in difficult times ...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 ...*

For the **safety and protection** of all those living in fear of domestic violence ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

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** - that we pray with our words and hearts, but also with our masks and efforts to socially distance. **We grow weary** in the face of it all and we miss our loved ones - their hugs, intimate gathering, and raucous laughter, and holding hands, and passing the peace; we miss singing and the comforting feeling of an uninterrupted routine. We miss all of it so much! We know that in many ways our lives have been upended in the name of safety and wellness, and to keep our hospitals functioning. It is good to upend things, to change, to follow different patterns and ways of being in the world if it means **that others might know more of life and love through our actions**. **May we embody the life-yielding spirit you have entrusted us to bear, boldly and bravely, even if a bit awkwardly through this time of altering expectation**. **Fill us with your grace ... 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 ...**

For our world, God, and particularly **for our country** as we enter into an election week - **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 ...**

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 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 ...**

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 ...*

God, we offer **gratitude for the intentions and blessings of love our community offered last Sunday at our final outdoor worship service of the season.** These are the ways our community will attempt to make your love known in this world and in our community - loving you more fully God, as we love our neighbors more fully:

*Love, help, pray, be kind,  
patience, generosity, kindness,  
faith and love,  
call and listen,  
be present and listen,  
Give and patience,  
love and help others,*

*love and be kind,  
love and patience,  
Respect, generosity, trust and love  
Take deep breaths,  
and pauses before reacting  
Create space for others*

***...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...*

*For all the saints, Holy One, we give thanks - for those who have formed and nurtured us, who have inspired and encouraged us - who have loved us with a love that comes from you, and instilled a hope deep within our hearts of all things new - may their memories be a blessing and their preparation and legacy a fertile ground for our seeding of your creative goodness, grace and love in our world ...*

Margaret Nelson  
Margaret Nichols  
Jean Lee Chin  
Linda Reynolds Carter  
Sande Lafaver  
Barbara Young  
Tomie dePaola  
Bradley Pope  
Hazel Greene  
Harry Vickery  
Cassandra "Cassie" Helms  
Alfalene Vardaman  
Debra Rose Howard Benzenhafer  
Charles Massey, Jr.  
Leanne Brown McCaffery  
The Reverend Canon Charles Kamper Floyd, Jr.  
William D. "Big Shot" Stephens  
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg  
Hazel Smith  
Ernest & Mary Jane Steeves  
John & Juletta Henderson

Walter & Virginia Steeves  
Cliff & Edith Steeves  
Barbara Steeves  
Kippy Steeves  
Walter & Dottie Steeves  
Virginia Steeves McLaughlin  
Deborah Burns Holden  
Stephen Burns  
Robin Burns Kegley  
Clayton Hilton Hewitt  
Rev. Kathy Longhat  
Cynthia Toto  
Ruth Miller Gates  
Margaret R. Gotthardt  
Eleanor Jackson  
ThoresenFrederick Louis Jackson  
Richard S. Gates  
Philip Benjamin Thoresen  
Rev. Irv Cummings  
Madeline Buttrick  
Audrey Ross

Robert Hong  
Stephen Pelletier  
Gim Fong  
Nancy Cronin  
Clara Nikon  
Spiro Nikon  
Fr. George Stylianopoulos  
Pres. Vasiliki Stylianopoulos  
Ida Ruth Peeler  
Cohen Chester Ludwig  
Betty Lou Graham Bunce  
Patty June Ludwig Jung  
Frances Graham Thorne  
Robert White  
The Mercer Family  
The Mitchell Family  
Jena Roy  
Muriel Harris  
Karen Campanella  
Lauren Thompson



*All those 230,000-plus in the U.S. who have died from coronavirus*

## 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.

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### **Fraudulent Texts and Emails:**

Some text messages and emails were sent in my name last week requesting money, favors and gift cards of some of our members. If you receive a vague email or text message from a strange source, even if it claims to be your pastor, please do not respond and **DO NOT** give your personal information to **ANYONE** who asks it over

email or text message, or phone call. If you are uncertain as to whether our church staff have contacted you, please feel free to reach out and inquire after the message. Our pastoral and office staff will never request money, gift cards or favors from you outside of official stewardship asks of the church. Again, please reach out to us if you ever receive a suspicious communication claiming to originate from your pastors, our church office, or another member of our community.

Because of this breach in our security, we have changed the member page password on our website. Please DO NOT share this password with anyone outside our community. If they request access to our member page, please have them contact Pastor Daryn.

**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](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org).



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](mailto: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 Q & A is **Thursday, Nov 5th with Rev. Karen Doucette**).

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](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org), and she will make sure you have access to the online gathering.

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## ~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](http://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](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org) or **Pastor Holly**, [pastorholly@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastorholly@fbcneedham.org), or our church office: **Robin Bevilacqua**, [churchoffice@fbcneedham.org](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@fbcneedham.org).

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**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.

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**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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