



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*The Ascension* by Jesus Mafa, 1973, a Christian community in Cameroon  
from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee.

**May 24, 2020**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

## **PRELUDE**

*We transition into our sacred time together  
as our music invokes the spirit of God.*

Opening Slideshow

## **\*CHIMING THE TRINITY**

*We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit in musical tones.*

*\* means we invite you to rise in body and spirit.*

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*We lift our voices, bodies, minds  
and spirits as a community  
in a song of praise.*

*Take My Life, God, Let it Be*

Verse 1: Kent French, *soloist*

Verse 2: Helen Hassinger, Kristen Murdaugh

Verses 3-6: Chancel Choir, with Helen Hassinger, *violin*

Tune: HENDON, by Henri A. Cesar Malan

words, Frances Ridley Havergal, 1874

1. Take my life, God, let it be con-se-cra-ted faith-ful-ly.  
2. Take my hands and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love.  
3. Take my voice, and let me sing al-ways on-ly let it ring,

Take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise,  
Take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee,  
Take my lips, and let them be filled with mes-sa-ges from thee,

let them flow in cease-less praise.  
swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.  
filled with mes-sa-ges from thee.

4. Take my sil - ver\_ and my gold; not a mite\_ would I with - hold;  
 5. Take my will;\_ your will be done! Make your will\_ and\_ mine be\_ one.  
 6. Take my love;\_ my\_ God I pour at thy feet\_ its\_ trea- sure\_ store;

Take my in - tel - lect, and use\_ ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,  
 Take my heart, and\_ by your grace\_ make of it your dwel - ling\_ place,\_  
 take my - self, and\_ I will be\_ ev - er, on - ly, all\_ for\_ thee,\_

Ev - 'ry pow'r as\_ thou shalt choose.  
 make of it your\_ dwel - ling place.  
 ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Psalm 122*

*We set our intention for worship with this call and response.*

Melanie Chernin  
Youth Choir, High School Class

One: I was glad when they said to me,  
**All: "Let us go into the house of the Lord."**  
One: I was weary when they said,  
**All: "Let us go again to our computer screens."**  
One: I was annoyed when they said,  
**All: "Let us put on our masks again."**  
One: I was exhausted when they said,  
**All: "Let us start up our Zoom meeting again."**  
One: I was yearning for real physical contact when they said,  
**All: "We will stay at home again today."**  
One: Here in this online space,  
**All: Apart yet connected,**  
One: We come to seek the presence of the living God,  
**All: To remember that we belong to one human family,**  
One: That our spirits connect us,  
**All: That our souls are thirsty,**  
One: That we need some divine nourishment:  
**All: The sign of hope,**  
One: The promise of peace,  
**All: The love of God.**  
One: Come, let us worship together.

**EASTER ACCLAMATION**

*We celebrate the arrival of Easter, the Day of Christ's Resurrection.*

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**GREETINGS**

*We warmly welcome all into our midst.*

Kent French and Amy Norton  
Senior and Associate Pastors

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**All: And also with you.**

**CENTERING PRAYER** *in unison*

*We center ourselves in the awareness of God's presence.*

God of Love,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG OF PREPARATION

*Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

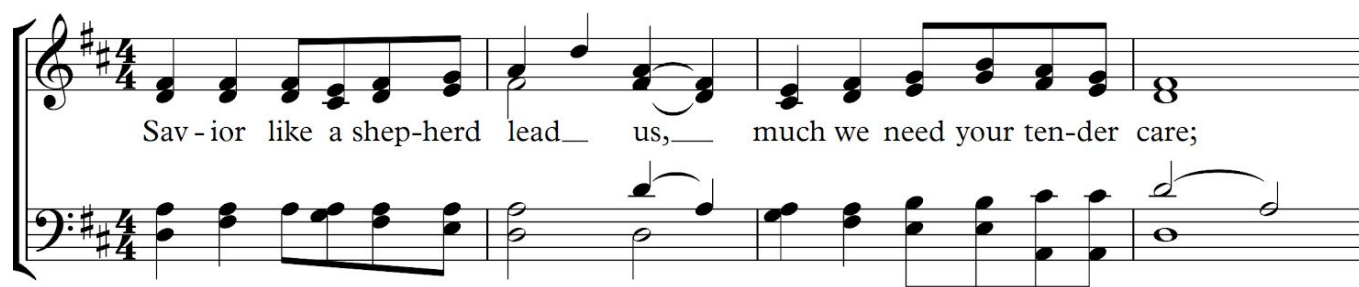
Helen Hassinger, voice and violin

*We prepare for confession with music.* words by Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836

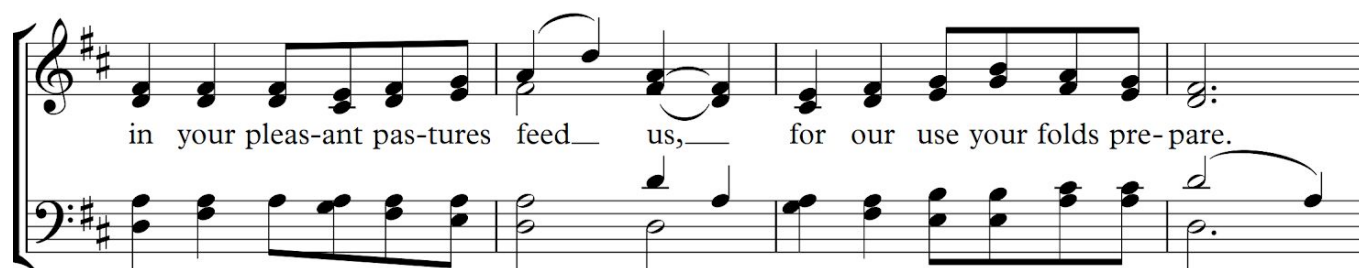
Kristen Murdaugh,

Josaphat Contreras, Nick Duffin, voice

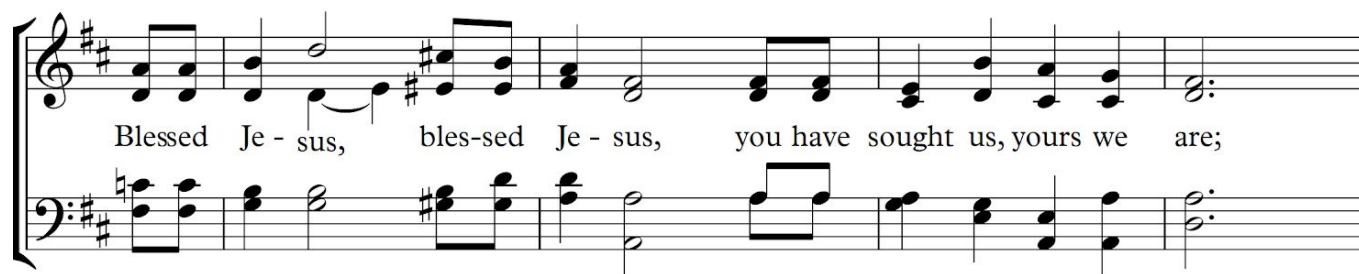
Tune: BRADBURY, by William B. Bradbury, 1859



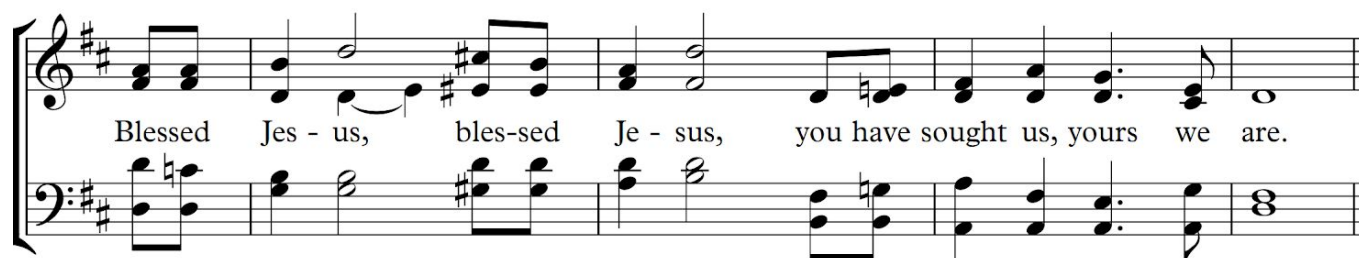
Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten-der care;



in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.



Blessed Je - sus, bles-sed Je - sus, you have sought us, yours we are;



Blessed Jes - us, bles-sed Je - sus, you have sought us, yours we are.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Together, we confess the ways we have gotten out of step with God  
and seek to re-center ourselves in the Love of God.*

Kent French  
Senior Pastor

Loving and most compassionate God,  
We confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in one another, in ourselves,  
and in the world you have created.  
We turn away from the harm that enslaves us,  
the harm we have done  
and the harm done on our behalf.  
Forgive us, restore and strengthen us, we pray.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name....

## SILENT CONFESSION

*We continue praying in silence for up to one minute for our personal confessions and spiritual centering.*

One: O God, in your compassion;  
All: **Hear our prayer.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *We receive the Good News that we are loved, forgiven and renewed in God's presence.*

**\*THE PEACE** *We share the Good News among ourselves with words of Peace and Love, while we shake hands, hug, fist bump, rub elbows, or bow to one another.*

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;  
All: **And also with you.**

## \*PEACE RESPONSE

*We re-gather with our voices in song.*

*This Little Light of Mine*

Children and Congregation

## READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Luke 24:44-53 and Acts 1:6-14

*We reflect together on these words from the ministry of early Church,  
the followers of Jesus, the people of The Way.*

Jesse Givens  
Youth Choir, Middle School Class

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,  
All: **Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

*We reflect together on how the Word of God plays out in our lives.*

Sudarshana Devadhar

Bishop

New England United Methodist Conference

## SUNG RESPONSE

*We reflect on the message  
through poetry and song.*

### *I Surrender All*

words by Judson W. Van De Venter, 1896

Tune: SURRENDER

by Winfield S. Weeden

1. *All to Jesus I surrender, all to Christ I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust him, in Christ's presence daily live.  
I surrender all (I surrender all) I surrender all (I surrender all)  
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

2. *All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine.  
Refrain: I surrender all (I surrender all) I surrender all (I surrender all)  
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

3. *All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame.  
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to Christ's name.  
Refrain: I surrender all (I surrender all) I surrender all (I surrender all)  
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We pray together for our congregation, our surrounding community,  
the nation and the world.*

Amy Norton

Associate Pastor

One: O God, hear our prayer;

All: **And guide us in your love.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** *We say together the prayer Jesus taught us.*

*We invite you to use your chosen words for God: Father, Mother, Abba, Allah or . . .*

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
On Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**



## OFFERING

*We offer our gifts for God's service. No gift is too small or too large. All are precious.*

### Invitation

*We hear from community members about why they take part.*

Mike McConnell

*Exalting in Worship Ministry Team  
Financial Relief Working Group*

### Offertory Anthem

*We offer our gifts  
as the choir offers songs of  
praise and thanksgiving.*

*He's the Lily of the Valley  
African American Spiritual  
arranged by Wendell Whalum*

Chancel Choir

*He's the lily of the valley, Oh my Lord!  
I've never been to heaven, but I've been told, O my Lord,  
That the streets up there are paved with gold.  
What kind of shoes are those you wear, Oh my Lord,  
That you can walk upon the air, Oh my Lord?  
These shoes I wear are Gospel shoes, Oh my Lord!  
And you can wear them if you choose, Oh my Lord !  
He's the lily of the valley, Oh my Lord !*

### \*Doxology

*We re-join our voices in thanksgiving.*

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

### \*Prayer of Dedication

*We ask God's blessing over the gifts.*



**\*CLOSING HYMN***There are Many Ways of Sharing*

Tune: NETTLETON

Together in song, we set our intention  
leaving this sacred space

words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

We invite you to sing, speak or silently read the words together.

There are man - y ways of shar - ing, But God's Spi - rit gives each one.  
All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set a - part to lead.

There are dif - ferent ways of car - ing; It's one God whose work is done.  
Give us Jes - us' love with - in us As we care for those in need.

God, whose gifts are ov - er - flow - ing, May we\_ hear you when you call;  
Give us\_ faith to make de - ci - sions; Give us\_ joy to share your Word.

Keep us ser - ving, keep us grow - ing For the com - mon good of all.  
Give us un - i - ty and vi - sion As we serve your church and world.

**HOLY BUSINESS**

We share news of God's work in our community's activities.

**\*BENEDICTION**

We receive a blessing as we prepare to depart this sacred gathering.

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE***God is Watching Over You*

Congregation

We respond to the blessing we have just received.

Many thanks to Jack Lilburn for generously editing today's online worship.

Please join us immediately after worship for **Virtual Coffee Hour** on Zoom,  
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/82788669912?pwd=MEZoNEMzSnRXNUFRQWJraE4rZoRUZzo9>

Meeting ID: 827 8866 9912 — Password: 925273

Or call 646-558-8656

Remember to sign up for **all-parish news**:  
contact [office@upbrookline.org](mailto:office@upbrookline.org) to join the mailing list.

If you haven't already, please sign up for **Realm**, our **online church directory**.

It's the best way to stay connected with our community.

<https://www.unitedparishbrookline.org/sign-up-for-the-church-online-photo-directory>

# WELCOME

We at the United Parish in Brookline believe that all people are made in the image of God and embrace and cherish every person and every kind of family. Jesus Christ welcomed everyone; we seek to follow his example in our own life and worship, by extending God's love and grace abundantly and equally to everyone. We affirm and welcome all people to share in worship, fellowship and leadership with us, to join us in a diversity of race, gender, sexual identity, physical and mental ability, ethnicity and economic means.

We have joined with other Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ) and Welcoming and Affirming (American Baptist Churches USA), as well as with the Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist Churches) to declare that we are and will remain open to all people.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the United Parish family. You may become a member by transferring membership or by a statement of faith. If you desire to retain ties with a former church, we invite you to become an associate or affiliate member for the time you are with us.

*We ask that you silence all electronic devices.  
Please see an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device.*

*Because our building is open to the public,  
an adult should accompany children if/when they leave the worship service.*

Ministers  
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Minister of Music  
Assistant Music Director  
Communications and Office Administrator  
Facilities Manager  
Building Usage Coordinator  
Accounting Administrator  
Nursery Supervisor  
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish  
Kent French  
Amy Norton  
Susan DeSelms  
Josaphat Contreras  
Sarah Fitzpatrick  
David Dunphy  
Helen Hassinger  
Donald Firth  
Jenna Bergquist  
Patricia Coughlin



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