



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



Richmond, Virginia, U.S., April 16, 2020. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
arranged by Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir

*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*O God, As We Pause**

FOUNDATION

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

Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God, as we pause from our u - su - al ways,
May we find your bles - sings in small com - mon things;
God, may we re - flect on a world that has changed
As greed and in - jus - tice are be - ing laid bare,
So, turn us a - round, Lord, to make your world new;

as mil - lions stay home, as we count pas - sing days,
may we learn the joy that com - mu - ni - ty brings.
a world where our val - ues have been re - ar - ranged.
may we build a na - tion that's lov - ing and fair.
May we seek, in all things, to first fol - low you.

may we learn what mat - ters what real - ly has worth.
In lov - ing our neigh - bors, in stop - ping to pray,
For those who once thought they could stand by them - selves
God, give us the cour - age to change what we can,
In change and in sor - row may we seek your reign.

May we seek your reign as we live here on earth.
may we know your pre - sence in each pas - sing day.
now val - ue the work - ers who re - stock the shelves.
to work for the jus - tice that's part of your plan.
O God, in our paus - ing, re - store us a - gain.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** by Joana Harader

Justin Yang

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

One: In the darkest valley,

All: At the banquet table;

One: In the hard work of life,

All: At the moments of ease;

One: In our day-to-day reality,

All: At times set aside—

One: Like this time, now—

All: For worship, for listening, for paying attention;

One: With every step we take:

All: Goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

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.

SUNG RESPONSE*We prepare for confession with music.***Holy Ground**

by John Michael Talbot

Recorded by

United Parish Section Leaders

This is ho - ly ground, we're stand-ing on ho - ly ground
These are ho - ly hands God's giv - en us ho - ly hands

for God is pre sent and where God is is ho - ly
God works through these hands and so these hands are ho - ly.

This is ho - ly ground we're stand-ing on ho - ly ground
These are ho - ly hands God's giv - en us ho - ly hands

for God is pre-sent and where God is is ho - ly.
God works through these hands and so these hands are ho - ly. *repeat verse 1*

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.*

Amy Norton

Associate Pastor

Loving and compassionate God,
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid.
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 perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy 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**

Easter People Raise Your Voices

REGENT SQUARE

We re-gather with our voices in song.



1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heav'n in earth should ring.
2. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur - rec - tion song.



Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es; heav'n - ly mu - sic, let it ring.
When in trou - ble move the fas - ter to our God who rights the wrong.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! See the pow'r of heav'n - ly throngs.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 5:I-II

Amalia and Theodora Rodine

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

One: For the Good News of the Holy Spirit,

All: **Thanks be to God!**

MESSAGE

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

Amy Norton
Associate Pastor

SUNG RESPONSE

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

I'm Gonna Lift My People Up
by Faya Rose Toure
arranged by Mary Alice and Peter Amidon

Helen Hassinger, Nick Duffin,
Josaphat Contreras,
Kristen Murdaugh

All Sing: *I'm gonna lift my sibling up, they are not heavy, (3x)
If I don't lift them up (3x) I will fall down.*

I'm gonna lift my neighbor up, they are not heavy...

I'm gonna lift the stranger up, they are not heavy...

I'm gonna lift my people up, they are not heavy...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Amy Norton and Jaz Buchanan
Associate Pastor and Seminarian

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 and our visitor cards. No gift is too small or too large. All are precious.*

Invitation

We hear from community members about why they take part.

Arielle Chernin
Thanksgiving Meal Coordinator

Offertory Anthem

*We offer our gifts as musicians offer
songs of praise and thanksgiving.*

*The Storm is Passing Over
by Charles Tindley
arranged by Barbara Baker*

Youth Choir, 2008
from the CD "Sing 'til the Power
of the Lord Come Down"

*Have courage, my soul, and let us journey on.
The night is young, and I am far from home.
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.
The storm is passing over, hallelujah.*

*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!***

THE FEAST OF COMMUNION *liturgy adapted from Maren Tirabassi*

We remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples, receiving spiritual sustenance and re-membering ourselves as the living body of Christ.

Invitation

We welcome all to the table, regardless of belief.

Prayer of Consecration *unison*

Together we consecrate the elements of communion, celebrating our connection in the Spirit.

**Gentle Host, you prepare a table before us
in the threatening presence of virus.**

**You anoint our hearts, bless our bread
and our cups overflow.**

**Surely as we shelter in place we find both the goodness of community
and mercy to those most vulnerable.**

**Now and all the days of our lives we claim that this house —
these many houses where we dwell
and also our precious church building,
are, indeed, the house of God.**

**Send your Spirit of life and love,
power and blessing upon your children
who are staying at home so that this Bread may be broken
and gathered in love
and this Cup poured out to give hope to all.**

**Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.
Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you. Amen.**

Sharing the Meal

Together we share this holy meal, re-membering ourselves as the living body of Christ.

One: Let us in our many sanctuaries receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.
Many: **We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

One: Let us in our many sanctuaries receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.
Many: **We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We pray in thanksgiving to God for the gifts of communion, forgiveness, and love.

One: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that,
in the holy dispersion of virtual worship,
we claim the risen Christ's love is not limited
by buildings made with human hands,
nor contained in human ceremonies,
and celebrating the God's shepherding that carries us into the unknown,
to listen and follow, to lead and be led, to feed and be fed.

All:

Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

BRADBURY

Helen Hassinger, Kristen Murdaugh,
Nick Duffin, Josaphat Contreras

*Savior, like a shepherd, lead us, much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.*

***CLOSING HYMN**

Take My Gifts

#562

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

HOLY MANNA

The DeSelms Family

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

1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2. Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer, gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free.
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to shar - pen, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

Now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter fla - vor of the Jes - us life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply.
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond com - pare.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

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

We respond to the blessing we have just received.

God is Watching Over You

United Parish Carolers
from the CD "I Am a Promise"
Melanie Hsu Chernin, soloist

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/84842579564?pwd=dVVET0hL3JIRUVUbVpiZDk3VjdYUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 4257 9564

Password: 310695

Or call 646-558-8656

Remember to sign up for **all-parish news**:
contact 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
Seminarian
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
Jasmine Buchanan
Susan DeSelms
Josaphat Contreras
Sarah Fitzpatrick
David Dunphy
Helen Hassinger
Donald Firth
Jenna Bergquist
Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist
210 Harvard Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

617-277-6860

office@upbrookline.org

upbrookline.org