



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

*Rooted in the past, Reaching into our future*

*Celebrating United Parish's 50th Anniversary*



*image from thegospelcoalition.org*

January 10, 2021

First Sunday after Epiphany

## PRELUDE

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

*Improvisation*

Thomas Little  
*Guest Musician*

## CHIMING THE TRINITY

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

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*We invoke the Spirit of Christ among us.*

Jesse Givens  
*Middle School Church School Class  
Youth Choir*

One: May Christ, the Light of the World,  
All: Enlighten our hearts with Love.

**GREETINGS**

*We warmly welcome all into our midst.*

Katharine H. Henry and Kent French  
*Seminarian and Senior Pastor*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *in unison*

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

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 this Good News among ourselves with words of Peace and Love.*

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

**PEACE RESPONSE**  
*We gather with our  
 voices in song.*

*Wade in the Water*  
 African-American Spiritual  
 arranged by Carl Hayward

The Faith We Sing #2107

*Refrain*

Wade in the wa-ter, wade in the wa-ter, chil-dren, wade in the wa-ter,

*Leader* *Fine* *All*

God's a-gon-na-trou-ble the wa-ter.

1. See that host all dressed in white,
2. See that band all dressed in red,
3. Look o-ver yon-der what do I see?
4. If you don't be-lieve I've been re-deemed,

God's a-gon-na-trou-ble the

12 *Leader* *All* *D.C.*

wa-ter.

1. The lead-er looks like the Is-rael-ite,
2. Looks like the band that Mo-ses led,
3. The Ho-ly Ghost a-com-ing on me,
4. Just fol-low me down to Jor-dan's stream,

God's a-gon-na-trou-ble the wa-ter.

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBER** *Jaz Buchanan*  
*We welcome a new member into our midst.*

**Congregation:**

**We are spiritual seekers, responding to the creative love of God,  
 following the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth  
 and receiving inspiration and guidance from the Holy Spirit among us.**

**We come together that we may hear God's call, be equipped to do God's work,  
 and go into the world to serve others. Will you join us?**

**New Member:**

**With you, I will celebrate God's love, follow the example of Jesus, trust the Holy Spirit,  
 and listen for and respond to God's call in our lives.**

**Congregation:**

**We seek to give Christ priority in all aspects of our lives  
and let the Holy Spirit remold us from within.**

**Will you join us in this faith?**

**New Member:**

**With you, I will share my time, my talent and my treasures.**

**I will share my needs with you, mutually supporting one another in this community.**

**Congregation:**

**We believe that we are one spiritual family, united by God's love.**

**We seek to make God's love manifest through our**

**Exalting in worship,**

**Deepening in Christian faith and spirituality,**

**Gathering in community,**

**Stretching into justice and**

**Stewarding our resources.**

**And we seek to share this love with the world around us.**

**Will you join us in this mutual ministry?**

**New Member:**

**With you, I will seek to be a part of the body of Christ, sharing this ministry together.**

**Congregation:**

**We welcome you as a partner in the common life of this church.**

**We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the cost and joys of discipleship.**

**All:**

**God grant that together we may grow in knowledge and love  
and share the spirit of the living Christ.**

**READING FROM THE PROPHETS**

**Isaiah 58:1-12**

*We reflect together on these words from the truth-tellers of ancient Israel.*

**One: The wisdom of God for the people of God;**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Anne Auerbach  
Church Council  
Stretching into Justice &  
Missions Giving Ministry Teams**

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL**

**Mark 1:4-11**

*We reflect together on this story from the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.*

**One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ;**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**HOMILY**

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

Kent French

Senior Pastor

**SONG**

*We re-gather with our voices.*

***This is My Song***

New Century Hymnal #591,  
United Methodist Hymnal #437

TUNE: FINLANDIA



1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, — a song of peace for  
2. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kin - doms: — Thy kin - dom come; on  
lands a - far and mine. — This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is; —  
earth thy will be done. — Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve thee, —  
— here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine; — But oth - er hearts in  
— and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one. — O hear my prayer, thou  
oth - er lands are beat - ing — with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
God of all the na - tions; — my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

***The Glory in the Grey***

by George Macleod

Katharine H. Henry

Seminarian

One: O God, hear our prayer,  
All: And guide us in your love.

**LORD'S PRAYER** *We pray together as 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.*

Katharine H. Henry  
Seminarian

## REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION

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

*This Great Thanksgiving was written by Shannon Sullivan, 2013, and modified by Katharine Henry & Kent French, 2021.*

***We invite you to gather these items in your home worship space:*** a bowl or cup of water, a cup of juice (or wine), and bread or crackers.

## Remembrance of Baptism and Profession of Faith

Cathy & Paul Quackenbush  
Canty-Devavaram Family: Leann, Prabhu, Ashwin & Priya

One: In our baptismal vows, we renounce the power of wickedness in our lives.  
Remembering this, let us pray together:

All: **Nourishing God, you tell us not to fear for you are with us.  
But we are so full of fear that we cannot love you with our whole heart.  
We use the freedom and power you have given us, not to resist evil, injustice,  
and oppression, but to rebel against your love to hurt our neighbors  
and ignore the cries of the needy.  
Cleanse us of our fear. Feed us the courage to put our whole trust in your grace.**

## Remembering our Baptism

*Together we remember our baptisms and the promise of baptism: birth through water and the Spirit.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: ...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## Prayer of Consecration

*We collectively invite God to bless our communion meal.*

One: ...redeem us again by washing away our sin and filling us with good things.

All: **May we be freed for joyful obedience:  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**

## Sharing the Meal

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

## Prayer of Thanksgiving *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*We pray in thanksgiving to God*

*for the gifts of communion, forgiveness, and love.*

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The lyrics are: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low; Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**CLOSING HYMN**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

**New Century Hymnal #436**

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

TUNE: CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
Set our feet on loft - y place - es; gird our lives that  
Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us -  
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

**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.*

**POSTLUDE**

*We transition out of our  
sacred time together.*

*Improvisation*

**Thomas Little**

*Piano*

Please stay on the Zoom meeting for Coffee Hour after worship.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81821475721?pwd=SUwrdEgzRE9VSljBYO9hcTdzR2d4dz09>

Meeting ID: 818 2147 5721

Passcode: 851823



# 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.

## Ministers

Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Seminarian  
Minister of Music  
Parish Administrator  
Facilities Manager  
Multimedia Producer  
Building Usage Coordinator  
Accounting Administrator  
Nursery Supervisor  
Pastor Emerita

## The People of the United Parish

Kent French  
Amy Norton  
Katharine H. Henry  
Susan DeSelms  
Sarah Fitzpatrick  
David Dunphy  
Jason Yu  
Helen Hassinger  
Donald Firth  
Jenna Bergquist  
Patricia Coughlin



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