



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*"The Burning Bush" located at Chang Jung Christian University in Tainan, Taiwan*

June 28, 2020

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Adventures in Faith: Into the Unknown

## Gathering Music

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

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

Kate Hendrix  
*Tower Bells*

## Chiming the Trinity

*We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit with a chime.*

## Lighting the Christ Candle

*We invoke the Spirit of Christ among us.*

Amalia Rodine

Acolyte

One: May Christ, the light of the world;

All: Enlighten our hearts with love!

### \*Hymn of Praise

*Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

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

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

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

*Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing  
Praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass*

*Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the One Light Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day*

**Greetings** *We warmly welcome all into our midst.*

Kent French and Amy Norton

Senior and Associate Pastors

### **Prayer of Confession** *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 Grace** *We receive the Good News that we are loved, forgiven and renewed in God's presence.*

## \*The Peace of Christ

*We share this 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 be with you always;  
All: And also with you.

## Anthem

*We re-gather as the children's choir offers a song of praise and thanksgiving.*

*What a Wonderful World*  
by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele

United Parish Carolers

*I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you,  
and I think to myself what a wonderful world.  
I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night  
and I think to myself what a wonderful world.*

*The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky are also on the faces of people goin' by,  
I see friends shakin' hands, sayin' "How do you do!" They're really sayin' "I love you."*

*I hear babies cry, I watch them grow, they'll learn much more than I'll ever know  
and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.  
Yes, I think to myself what a wonderful world.*

## Scripture Reading

*We reflect together on these words from the Jewish Torah.*

Exodus 3:1-15

Paul Lauro-Priestly  
Tower Bells Ringer

One: For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God in Spirit,  
For the Word of God among us;  
All: Thanks be to God!

## Message

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

JT Hills  
Pastor, Big Rapids United Church  
Big Rapids, Michigan

## Musical Response

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

### *Promised Land*

arranged by James Richard Rogers

Chancel Choir

*On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye,  
to Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie.  
I am bound for the promised land.*

## Prayers of the People

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

Kent French

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

## 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.*

Dave Heppner  
Chancel Choir

## \*Doxology

*We rejoin our voices in thanksgiving.*

*Oh, We Give Thanks*  
by Wendy Luella Perkins

Penelope and Susan DeSelms  
Song Leaders

*Oh, we give thanks  
For this precious day  
For all gathered here  
And those far away;*

***Oh, we give thanks  
For this precious day,  
For all gathered here  
And those far away;***

*For this time we share  
With Love and care,  
Oh, we give thanks  
For this precious day  
Al-le-lu-ia....*

***For this time we share  
With Love and care,  
Oh, we give thanks  
For this precious day.  
Al-le-lu-ia....***

## \*Prayer of Dedication

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

**\*Lord's Prayer** *We say together the prayer Jesus taught his disciples.*

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

**Our Creator in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
On Earth as in Heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,**

**As we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Closing Song**

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

*Woyaya (We keep going)*  
lyrics by Annie Maseembe  
music by Osibisa

Members of the Chancel Choir

***We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within.  
And we will get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will.  
It will be hard we know, and the road will be muddy and rough,  
But we'll get there, heaven knows, how we will get there, but we know we will.  
Woyaya, woyaya, woyaya, woyaya***

**\*Holy Business** *We share news of God's work in our community's activities.*

**\*Blessing for Sally Stoyell**

*We offer our blessing for one who is leaving our community, just as we prepare to depart this sacred gathering.*

**Benediction Response**

*We respond to the blessing with song.*

*The Lord Bless and Keep You*

Carolers

Priya Devavaram, soloist

Please join us immediately after worship for our All-Parish Meeting on Zoom,  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86387926962?pwd=VEVlNmU4cld3NS9Bd2pwUnU3WmJtZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 8792 6962

Password: 771133

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>

Thanks to those participating in worship today.

Guest Preacher: JT Hills

Liturgists: Paul Lauro-Priestly, Dave Heppner

Tower Bells Ringer: Leann Canty

# 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 or mental ability, ethnicity or 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 persons, including gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual 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  
Minister of Music  
Assistant Music Director  
Parish Administrator  
Facilities Manager  
Building Usage Coordinator  
Accounting Administrator  
Multimedia Producer  
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  
Jack Lilburn  
Jenna Bergquist  
Patricia Coughlin



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