



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

Discernment: Finding Clarity in the Chaos

*Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves,
like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue.
Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them.
And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now.*

Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet* #4

GATHERING MUSIC with images of past Palm Sundays at United Parish
We transition into our sacred time together as music invokes the spirit of God.

Chancel Choir
2008 Boston Healthcare
for the Homeless
Fundraising Concert

Selections include
Promised Land, arranged by James R. Rogers
God is Seen, arranged by Alice Parker
The Lily of the Valley, arranged by Wendell Whalum
Saints Bound for Heaven, arranged by Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

***CHIMING THE TRINITY *** *means we invite you to rise in body and spirit (even while you're watching at home!)*
We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit in musical tones.

***LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We bring the light of Christ into our sacred space.

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

***OPENING HYMN**

When We Face an Unknown Future

BEACH SPRING

*We lift our voices, bodies, minds text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
and spirits as a community in a song of praise.
We invite you to sing, speak or silently read the words together.*

*When we face an unknown future that we can't imagine yet,
when the closeness we have treasured turns from blessing into threat —
As we miss our friends and loved ones, as we crave community,
may we look, God, in this season, for a whole new way to be.*

*Jesus faced the lonely desert as a time to look within.
There he met such trial and conflict; there he knew you were with him.
In this time of separation when we miss the life we've known,
may we hear your voice proclaiming: "I am here! You're not alone."*

*May we cherish those around us as we never have before.
May we think much less of profit; may we learn what matters more.
May we hear our neighbors' suffering; may we see our neighbors' pain.
May we learn new ways of offering life and health and hope again.*

*God, when illness comes to threaten, and when so much here goes wrong,
may we know this thing for certain — that your love is sure and strong.
You're beside us in our suffering — and when times are surely tough,
we may face an unknown future, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.*

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

PSALM

Psalm 86

Jim DeSelms, Cantor

We set our intention for worship by hearing the words of the Psalmist,
and responding together in song.

Psalm will appear on screen.

The cantor will sing the Response (*R*) the first time alone;
please join singing at home the second time

Response

Unison

Antiphon: Judy Hunnicutt, 1994

O God, you a-bound in stead-fast love to all who call on you.

R

¹Incline your ear, O God,
and ánswer me,
for I am póor and needy.

²Preserve my life, for I am
devóted to you;
save your servant
who trústs in you.

You áre my God;

³be grácious to me, O God,
for to you do I cry áll day long.

⁴Gladden the soul óf your servant,
for to you, O God,
I lift úp my soul. *R*

⁵For you, O God, are good ánd
forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to
all who éall on you.

⁶Give ear, O God, ío my prayer;
listen to my cry of súpplication.

⁷In the day of my trouble
I éall on you,
for you will ánswer me.

⁸There is none like you among
the góds, O God,
nor are there any wórk like yours.

R

⁹All the nations you have made
shall come and bow down
before yóu, O God,
and shall glorify your name.

¹⁰For you are great and do
wóndrous things;
you álone are God.

¹¹Teach me your way, O God,
that I may walk ín your truth;
give me an undivided heart to
révere your name.

¹²I give thanks to you, O God my God,
with áll my heart,
and I will glorify your náme
forever. *R*

¹³For great is your steadfast íove
toward me;
you have delivered my soul
from the dépths of Sheol.

¹⁴O God, the insolent rise úp
against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set yóu
before them.

¹⁵But you, O God, are a God
mercíful and grácious,
slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast íove and faithfulness.

¹⁶Turn to me and be grácious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child óf your servant.

and be put to shame, because you,
O God, have helped me and
comforted me. *R*

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so
that those who hate míe may see it

*Proper 7 [12] A vs. 1-10, 16-17; Proper 11 [16] A vs.
11-17.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *in unison, based on the Prayer of Saint Francis*

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

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**Where we have sown the seeds of hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let us sow pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we
are born to eternal life...**

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** *please rise*

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,
while we bump elbows, bow to one another, or make the Peace sign.*

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.

*Aria, from the Goldberg Variations
by Johann Sebastian Bach*

Emely Phelps
Recorded for United Parish
on Monday, March 30, 2020

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 58:6-8

Jasmine Buchanan

Seminarian

We reflect together on the writings of the truth-tellers of the Jewish faith.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Philippians 2:1-4

Jim Lindquist

We reflect together on the correspondence of the early Church.

Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team

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!

***READING FROM THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:1-14

Amy Norton

We reflect together on stories from the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

Associate Pastor

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ;

All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

The Lord Has Need of It

Amy Norton

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

Associate Pastor

HYMN

We reflect on the message
in poetry and song.

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

New Century Hymnal #410

NEUMARK

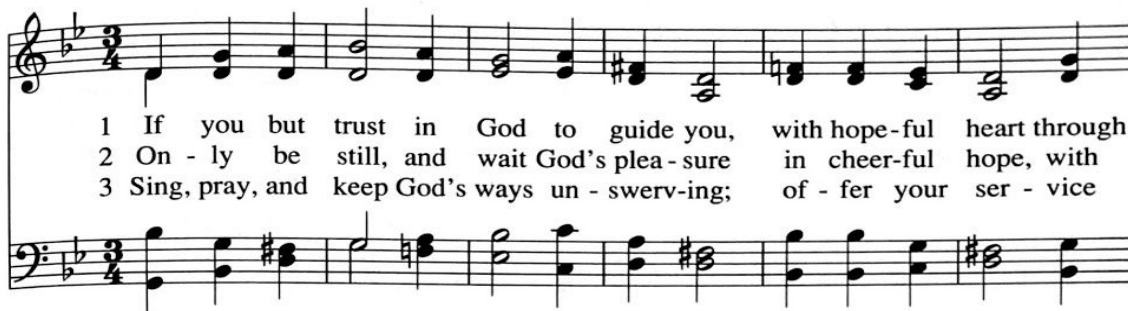
FAITH

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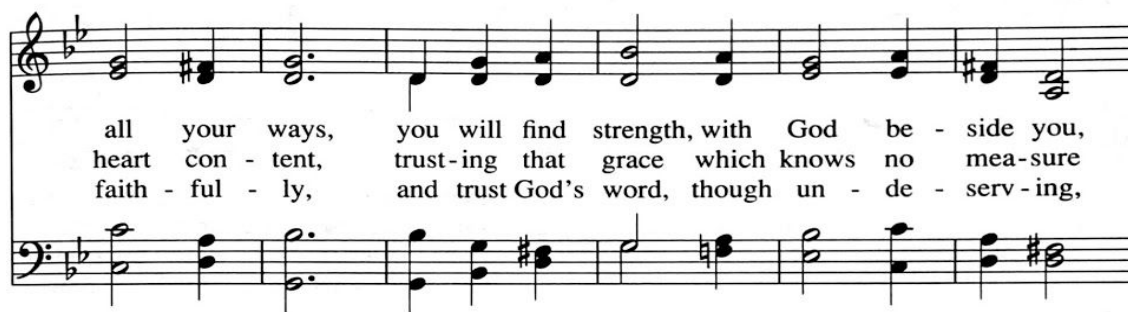
Georg Neumark, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Ps. 55:22



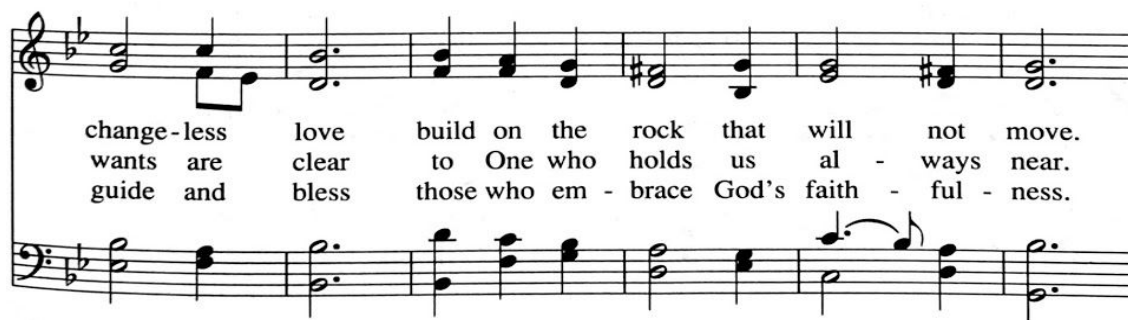
1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with
3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice



all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,
heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure
faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv - ing,



to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's
will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most
there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to



change - less love build on the rock that will not move.
wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.
guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

The comforting words of Psalm 55:22 inspired this beautiful
hymn by Georg Neumark, who wrote both words and music.
Neumark was a German poet who suffered much during the
Thirty Years' War.

Tune: NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.
Georg Neumark, 1657

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Kent French

Senior Pastor

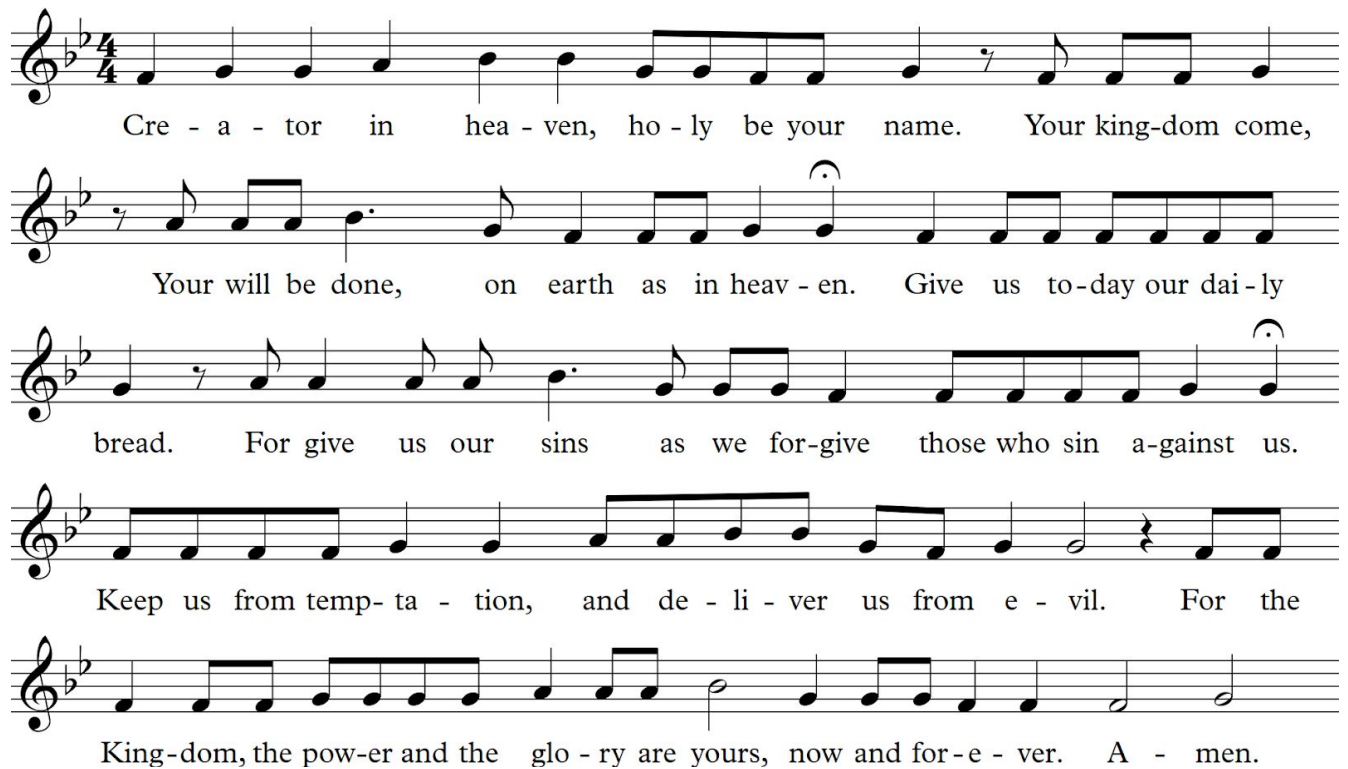
One: O God, hear our prayer,

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

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

Taizé Chant

We invite you to use your chosen words for Creator, singing instead: Our Father, Our Mother, Sustainer, Redeemer or...



Cre - a - tor in hea - ven, ho - ly be your name. Your king-dom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to-day our dai - ly
bread. For give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.
Keep us from temp- ta - tion, and de - li - ver us from e - vil. For the
King-dom, the pow-er and the glo - ry are yours, now and for-e - ver. A - men.

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.

Stella Lee

Chancel Choir Member

Offertory Anthem

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

My God is a Rock in a Weary Land
African American Spiritual
arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Chancel Choir
recorded March 2018
Erik Larson, baritone

THE FEAST OF COMMUNION

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

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

One: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing.
Though we are many throughout the earth
and this church community is scattered,
we are one in Christ.
In your many kitchens, and living rooms,
rest your hands lightly upon these elements
which we set aside today to be a sacrament.
Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Many: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing
and no quarantine on grace.
Send your Spirit of life and love, power, and blessing
upon every table where your child shelters in place,
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.

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.**

Communion Music

*We sing together this prayer while
communion is served.*

Wondrous Love
Appalachian Folk Hymn
arranged by Trevor Manor

Carolers, Recorded April 2017
Helen Hassinger, violin

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*

*When I was sinking down, sinking down,
sinking down,
When I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing.*

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, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth
That Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands,
nor contained in human ceremonies,
but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

Many: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives.
May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love,
not only in church sanctuaries,
but in your precious world,
and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope
even in the midst of pandemic.
Wrap your hopeful presence around all
whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing,
and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen

***Song of Thanksgiving** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
We re-join our voices in thanksgiving in song.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Recorded January 26, 2020

*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!*

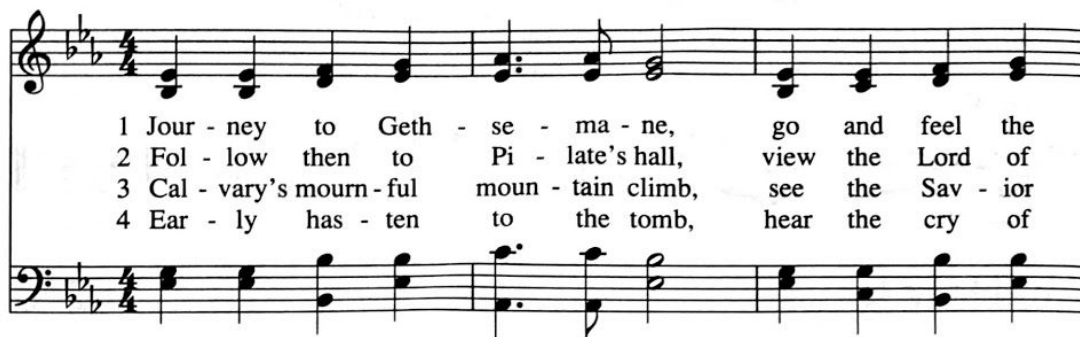
HOLY WEEK

219

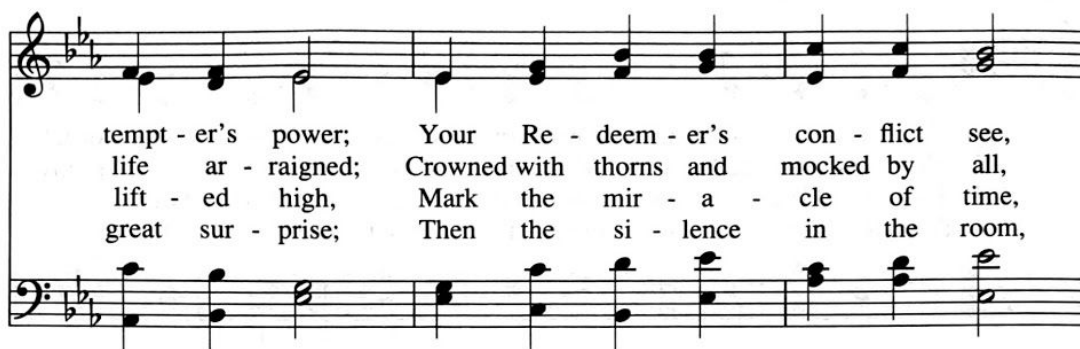
Journey to Gethsemane

John 18:1-20:18

James Montgomery, 1820; alt.



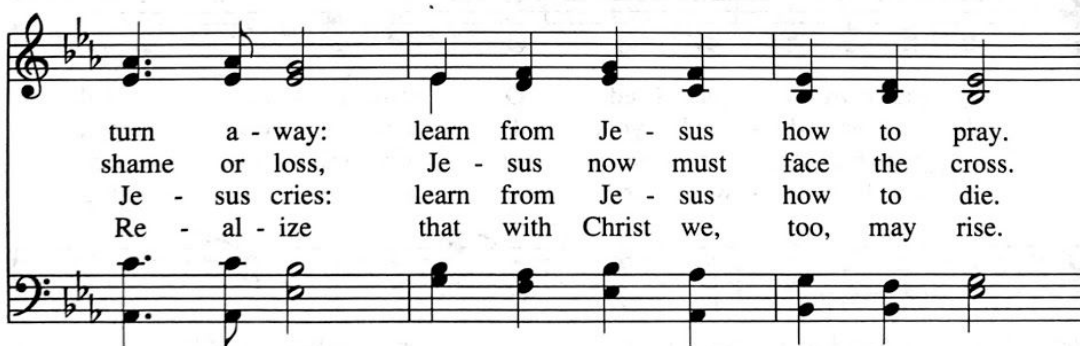
1 Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, go and feel the
 2 Fol - low then to Pi - late's hall, view the Lord of
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, see the Sav - ior
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, hear the cry of



tempt - er's power; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - raigned; Crowned with thorns and mocked by all,
 lift - ed high, Mark the mir - a - cle of time,
 great sur - prise; Then the si - lence in the room,



watch the an - guish of this hour; Do not hide or
 faith - ful - ly this pain sus - tained; Great - er still than
 God's own Child is sac - ri - ficed; "It is fin - ished!"
 Je - sus there no long - er lies; Christ is ris - en!



turn a - way: learn from Je - sus how to pray.
 shame or loss, Je - sus now must face the cross.
 Je - sus cries: learn from Je - sus how to die.
 Re - al - ize that with Christ we, too, may rise.

James Montgomery, born of Moravian missionary parents, edited a newspaper in England. Risking imprisonment, he published articles advocating human rights, including the abolition of slavery. He wrote more than 400 hymns.

Tune: REDHEAD NO. 76 7.7.7.7.7.
 Richard Redhead, 1853

***BENEDICTION**

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

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

My Peace

Carolers

We respond to the blessing we have just received.

recorded February 9, 2015

If you would like further study and reflection after this worship,
we invite you to visit our home page, unitedparishbrookline.org or go directly to:
www.unitedparishbrookline.org/news/opportunities-during-lent

Join us for Zoom Coffee Hour, 12-1pm

<https://zoom.us/j/706296570?pwd=TldoMDRBNWlUbnFrVUZlejRBUGYxdz09>

Meeting ID: 706 296 570 — Password: 001841

Or call 646.558.8656, meeting ID: 706 296 570

Join us for

Maundy Thursday worship, April 9, 7pm,
with an online at-home foot-washing ritual at 6:45pm

Good Friday worship, April 10, 7pm

and

Easter morning worship, April 12, 11am

For more information, go to:

www.unitedparishbrookline.org/news/live-streaming-worship

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
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
Helen Hassinger
Donald Firth
Jenna Bergquist
Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

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