



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



Marsha P. Johnson (left) and Sylvia Rivera march in New York City in 1973. (Reuters)

July 5, 2020

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Adventures in Faith: Beyond Pride

Gathering Music

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

Ode to Joy

Morning Has Broken

Luke and Elise Molloy
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.

Cy Perkins

Acolyte

One: May Christ, the light of the world;

All: Enlighten our hearts with love!

*Opening Hymn

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*

Veni Sancte Spiritus (Come Holy Spirit)

Taizé Chant

Helen Hassinger

soprano and violin

Nick Duffin, baritone

Kristen Murdaugh, alto

All Sing (continuously)



Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

*Come from the four winds, O Spirit, come breath of God;
disperse the shadows over us, renew and strengthen your people.*

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

You are our only comforter, Peace of the soul. In the heat you shade us;

In our labor you refresh us, and in trouble you are our strength.

On all who put their trust in you, and receive you in faith, shower all your gifts.

Grant that they may grow in you and persevere to the end, give them lasting joy.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

Greetings

We warmly welcome all into our midst.

Kent French and Amy Norton

Senior and Associate Pastors

Anthem

*We prepare for confession
with music and poetry.*

Same Love

*by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis
presented as part of "Where is the Love?"*

*Malcolm McGraw, rap
Seanna McGraw and
Sabrina Pierre, vocals*

*And I can't change even if I tried, even if I wanted to
And I can't change even if I tried, even if I wanted to
My love, my love, my love, he keeps me warm.*

*If I was gay I would think hip-hop hates me
Have you read the Youtube comments lately
"Man that's gay" gets dropped on the daily
We've become so numb to what we're sayin'
Our culture founded from oppression
Yeah, we don't have acceptance for 'em
Call each other faggots behind the keys of a message board
A word routed in hate, yet our genre still ignores it
Gay is synonymous with the lesser
It's the same hate that's caused wars from religion
Gender to skin color the complexion of your pigment
The same fight that lead people to walk-outs and sit-ins,
It's human rights for everybody
There is no difference
Live on! And be yourself!*

*When I was in church, they taught me something else
If you preach hate at the service
Those words aren't anointed
And that Holy Water, that you soak in is then poisoned
When everyone else
Is more comfortable remaining voiceless
Rather than fighting for humans,
that have had their rights stolen
I might not be the same
But that's not important
No freedom 'til we're equal.*

Damn right I support it

And I can't change...

*We press play don't press pause
Progress, march on!
With a veil over our eyes
We turn our back on the cause
'Till the day that my uncles can be united by law
Their kids are walkin' around the hallway
Plagued by pain in their heart
A world so hateful,
Some would rather die than be who they are
And a certificate on paper
Isn't gonna solve it all,
But it's a damn good place to start.*

*No law's gonna change us
We have to change us. Whatever God you believe in
We come from the same one
Strip away the fear
Underneath it's all the same love
About time that we raised up

Love is patient, love is kind.
I'm not crying on Sundays.*

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.

***Peace Response**

We gather with our voices in song.

*This Little Light of Mine
Spiritual*

Carolers

Scripture Reading

We reflect together on these words from the Jewish Torah.

Song of Songs 1:5-7

Neethi David

One: The Wisdom of God for the people of God;
All: Thanks be to God!

Sung Response

How Could Anyone?
words and music by Libby Roderick

All Sing

*How could anyone ever tell you you were anything less than beautiful?
How could anyone ever tell you you were less than whole?
How could anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle?
How deeply you're connected to my soul.*

Message

Beyond Pride

Amy Norton

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

Associate Pastor

Musical Response

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

True Colors

by Billy Steinberg and Tom Kelly

Melanie Hsu-Chernin,

Priya Devavaram

*You with the sad eyes
Don't be discouraged,
Oh I realize
It's hard to take courage
In a world full of people
You can lose sight of it all
The darkness inside you
Can make you feel so small*

*Show me a smile then
Don't be unhappy
Can't remember when
I last saw you laughing
This world makes you crazy
And you've taken all you can bear
Just call me up
'Cause I will always be there*

*And I see your true colors
Shining through
I see your true colors
And that's why I love you
So don't be afraid to let them show
Your true colors
True colors are beautiful
Like a rainbow*

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 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.**

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.

Erin Venkatesh
Thrifty Threads
Sachin and Sanjay Venkatesh
Church School

*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;*

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

*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....*

*Prayer of Dedication

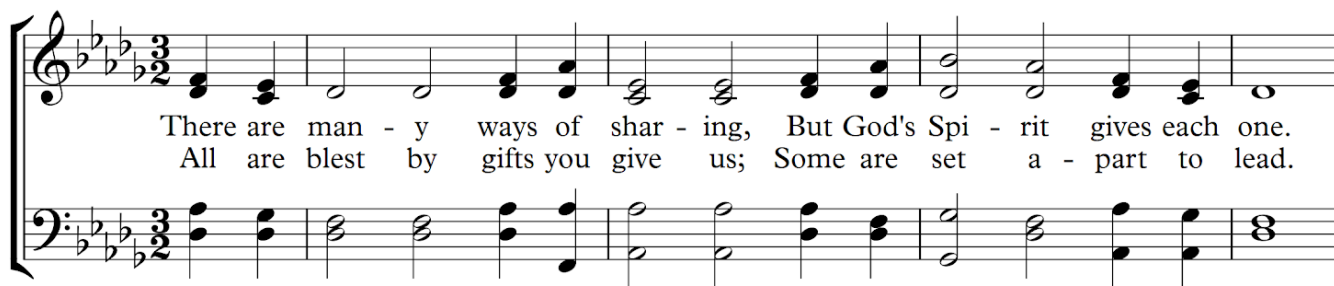
We ask God's blessing over the gifts.

*Closing Hymn

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

There are Many Ways of Sharing words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TUNE: NETTLETON



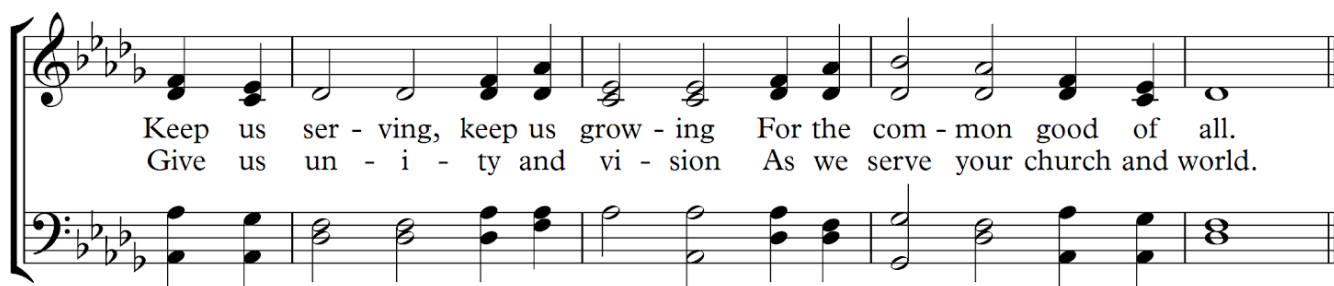
There are man - y ways of shar - ing, But God's Spi - rit gives each one.
All are blest by gifts you give us; Some are set a - part to lead.



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.

Blessing of the Acolytes

We bless our Acolytes, the 'bearers of the light', and thank them for their service this year.

Blessing Response

*We respond to the
blessing with song.*

Rainbow Connection
by Kenny Ascher and Paul Hamilton Williams

Priya Devavaram, soloist
June 10, 2018

Postlude

We transition out of our sacred time together.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Paul Lauro-Priestly
Tower Bells

Please join us immediately after worship for Coffee Hour on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87615505700?pwd=bHFYTxErWUhtVy9HMTVBUEUJTL3RndzO9>

Meeting ID: 876 1550 5700

Password: 069526

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>

Take-home suggestion for this week

Try your own Pride Adventure Meditation

Close your eyes or fix your gaze somewhere comfortable.

As you take a few deep breaths in through your nose and out through your mouth, think about a part of yourself that you tend to hide, criticize, or make smaller, solely for the comfort of others.

Pay attention to how it feels in your body when you think about this part of yourself.

Devote several breaths to exploring and feeling those sensations.

Now, imagine seeing yourself through God's eyes, marveling with pride at how special you are, how each part of who you are is loved, is crafted with care and intention.

Imagine what it might look or feel like to not just accept, but embrace all of who you are.

Your stubbornness? Beloved.

Your sexuality? Beloved.

Your skepticism? Beloved.

Your gender? Beloved.

Your melanin? Beloved.

Your rough edges? Beloved as dearly as the smooth planes.

As you read the words of the psalmist, pay special attention to the sensations in your body, how, if at all, they've shifted or changed.

*I praise you, God, because I am reverently and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

Devote several breaths to exploring and feeling those sensations.

Take it forward: Try reading this portion of Psalm 139 each day this week, focusing on a part of you that you would like to celebrate, feel more proud of, or simply just begin to accept.

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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