



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



Prison visitors. Photo by David Joles, Star Tribune, Minnesota

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Adventures in Faith: Ministering to the 'Unforgivable'

Gathering Music

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

Scottish Melodies

Beverly Bowman
Cello

Chiming the Trinity

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

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.

Morning Has Broken

by Eleanor Farjeon, traditional Gaelic melody

Helen Hassinger,

Nick Duffin,

Chancel Choir

Song Leaders

TUNE: BUNESSAN

***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 re-creation of the new day.***

Greetings

We warmly welcome all into our midst.

Kent French

Senior Pastor

Song of Preparation

We prepare for confession
with music and poetry.

How Could Anyone?

words and music by Libby Roderick

Amalia Rodine

UP Children and Youth

February 2019

***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.***

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.*

Kent French
Senior 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, il
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 and the Love of God be with you always;
All: And also with you.

Peace Response

We gather with our voices in song.

This Little Light of Mine
Traditional Spiritual

United Parish Carolers
Josaphat Contreras
Assistant Music Director

Reading from the Gospel

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

Matthew 25:34-46

Chad Moore
Stretching into Justice Ministry Team
20/30 Vision

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ;
All: Thanks be to God!

Reading from the Gospel

John 8:1-11

Kent French

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

Senior Pastor

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.

Kimberly will join us in coffee hour after the worship.

Resources listed below about how to learn more about this issue.

Kimberly French

Member, Unitarian Universalist Society

Middleborough, Massachusetts

Musical Response

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

Amazing Grace

lyrics by John Newton and Roberta Martin

music by William Walker

arranged by Kenneth Morris

Stefan Reed

Song Leader

*I was young but I recall, singing songs was mother's joy as the shadows gathered at the close of day,
And I'd sit upon her knee, in those days that used to be as she sang of God's amazing grace,*

***Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.***

*Mother was so good and kind, oft she told me I would find
Not another who would share my griefs and woes,
So I took her at her word, and sought the blessed Lord and today my mother's God is mine.*

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fear relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!***

*At the closing of life's day, Christ will be my hope and stay
I shall meet my blessed mother face to face
And I'll tell her over there, in that land so bright and fair I am glad I trusted God's amazing grace.*

***Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.***

Prayers of the People

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

Holly VandeWall

Exalting in Worship Ministry Team

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 and us.
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.**

Sung Response

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

I Surrender All

words by Judson W. Van De Venter, 1896
music by Winfield S. Weedon

Josaphat Contreras,
Helen Hassinger,
Nick Duffin, Kristen Murdaugh
Song Leaders

TUNE: SURRENDER

*All to Jesus I surrender, all to Christ I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in Christ's presence daily live.
**I surrender all (I surrender all), I surrender all (I surrender all)
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

*All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine.
**Refrain: I surrender all (I surrender all), I surrender all (I surrender all)
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

*All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame.
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to Christ's name.
**Refrain: I surrender all (I surrender all), I surrender all (I surrender all)
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.***

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.

Debra Hall
Adult Deepening Ministry Team

Doxology

*We rejoin our voices
in thanksgiving.*

Oh, We Give Thanks
by Wendy Luella Perkins
adapted words by Kent French

Penelope and Susan DeSelms,
Kevin Shushan
Song Leaders

*We thank you, God,
For this precious day:
The Creator's care,
Christ's love to share,*

*We thank you, God,
For this precious day:
The Creator's care,
Christ's love to share,*

*For the Spirit here,
Bringing Kin-dom near.
We thank you, God,
For this precious day.*

*For the Spirit here,
Bringing Kin-dom near.
We thank you, God
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's a Wideness in God's Mercy
lyrics by Frederick William Faber, adapted
music by Calvin Hampton

Kent French
Song Leader

***There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in God's Word.***

***There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the grace that has been poured;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of our Lord.***

***For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take God at God's word;
And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.***

Holy Business

We share news of God's work in our community's activities.

Blessing for Dave Heppner and Josaphat Contreras, Assistant Music Director

We offer our blessing for community members moving away.

Postlude

*We transition out of our
sacred time together.*

A Mighty Fortress Is our God

Kate Hendrix
Tower Bells

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82947321922?pwd=RDZhRzNmWXlaSWpQdjVrbTRUc1Q2UT09>

Meeting ID: 829 4732 1922

Password: 601559

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>

Ways to respond proactively to today's homily

Write to an inmate at the Massachusetts Treatment Center.

This could be one-time, or time-limited (say, 2-3 letters), or ongoing, as you choose.

Contact: Kathy Williams, kwilliams@publiccounsel.net.

Get educated and be an upstander.

Adult education is key to preventing child sexual abuse. The Darkness to Light organization is now offering a 30-minute free on-line training in English and Spanish:

<https://www.d2l.org/education/additional-training/protecting-children-during-crisis/>

Learn how laws that may sound reasonable affect real people.

You can watch this award-winning documentary called "Untouchable" by David Feige

at home: <http://www.untouchablefilm.com/watch-now/>

Read Kimberly's essay, "Offenders among us" [here](#), with links to other essays on the subject.

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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