



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



Nursery care is available for all children up to age 5. Our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum. The nursery is outdoors in Memorial Park during fair weather, and in Room 203 during inclement weather.

Rocking chairs are available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Prayer books are available at the back of the Sanctuary or in the Marion Street Lobby.

Please share any prayers you have to be read aloud during the Prayers of the People.

Sanitized hearing devices are available from the ushers.

September 12, 2021 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Reunion Sunday

Gathering Music

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

Hymns from the Southern Harmony
arranged by Catherine McMichael

Beverly Bowman, *cello*
Helen Hassinger, *violin*
Susan DeSelms, *piano*

***Chiming the Trinity** * means we invite you to rise in body and spirit
We call forth God the Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit in musical tones.

***Lighting the Christ Candle**
We invoke God's light among us.

Cy Perkins
High School Church School Class

*Our new acolyte robes have been given in memory
of longtime Acolyte Coordinator, Betty Gray (1934-2020)*

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

***Call to Worship** *Holy Ground*
We welcome God's spirit in music. by Pete Seeger and Frank London
arranged by Susan DeSelms

Chancel Choir

*Take off, take off your shoes, this place your standin' is holy ground.
These words I heard in the burnin' bush, "This place you're standin' is holy ground."
I heard a fiery voice speak to me: "This place your standin' is holy ground."
This spot is holy, holy ground. The spot you're standin' is Holy ground.*

*Take off your shoes and pray, the spot we're standin' is holy ground.
Each way on earth I traipse around. Each path I walk is holy ground.
Every inch is holy ground. Each grain of dirt is holy ground.*

*This spot we're standin' is holy ground. This spot is holy, holy ground.
Every little inch is holy ground. Each grain of earth is holy ground.
God made this place our Holy Ground.*

Greetings
We warmly welcome all into our midst.

Amy Norton and Kent French
Associate and Senior 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 Prayers
*Together, we center ourselves in the presence of God:
confessing the ways we have gotten out of step with the Divine,
re-centering ourselves in God's Love and praying together
for our congregation, our surrounding community, the nation and the world.*

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.**

Sung Response

*We end our silent prayer
with a song.*

*We Return (Hashiveinu)
by Noah Aronson and Elana Arian*

All Sing

**1. We return (we return,) we return (we return.)
We return, return again.
We return (we return) we return (we return)
We return, return again and again to love...
love... love.
We return again to love.**

**2. We return (we return) we return (we return.)
We return, return again.
We return (we return) we return (we return)
We return, return again and again to
truth...truth...truth.
We return again to truth.**

*Choir: Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha v'nashuvah
Chadesh yameinu k'kedem*

*Return us, Eternal One, let us return
Renew us, as You have done of old.*

**3. We return (we return,) we return (we return.)
We return, return again.
We return (we return) we return (we return)
We return, return again and again to You...You...You. We return again to You.**

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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***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 the 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

Readings from the Epistles

*We reflect together on correspondence
from the early Church and Christian Diaspora.*

James 1:27-2:14

The Message Version

Thomas Mitchell
Seminarian

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.

Kent French
Senior Pastor

Reflection Questions

We take questions to reflect on for the week.

1. To whom are you showing undue partiality?

Sung Response

We reflect on the message through poetry and song.

Migratory V, from Myths and Hymns
by Adam Guettel

Merle Perkins, soloist
Helen Hassinger, violin

*We sail above the weather
We search the ocean floor.
We rival our creation,
Still yearning for more.
But can we fly together—
A migratory V?
How wonderful if that's what God could see.
A single voice in whispered prayer
Can only pray to travel there.*

*But all as one,
We sound the everlasting sound
And sing our salvation.
Aloft and in formation,
A migratory V.
How wonderful if that's what God could see.
Aloft and in formation,
A migratory V.
How wonderful if that's what God could see.*

Offering Invitation

We hear from community members about why they take part and receive an invitation to offer our gifts for God's service. No gift is too small or too large. All are precious.

Jennifer Rodine
Moderator

Please place your offerings and guest cards in the baskets at either end of the main aisle.

You can also give online at unitedparishbrookline.org/give or by texting "UPfamily" to 73256.

Venmo: Search @unitedparishinbrookline. Paypal: Search office@upbrookline.org.

***Doxology**

We rejoin our voices in thanksgiving.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Mary McConnell, timpani

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***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 Business**

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

***Blessing for Jason Yu, outgoing Media Producer**

We offer our blessing for one leaving our community.

***Closing Song**

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

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
by Peter Christian Lutkin

Chancel Choir
Beverly Bowman, cello

*The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord lift her countenance upon you and give you peace.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. Amen.*

Please join us after worship for **Coffee Hour** on the front lawn.

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Acolyte: Cy Perkins
Coffee Hour Hosts: Gathering Ministry Team
Liturgists: Thomas Mitchell, Jennifer Rodine
Ushers: Mark Molloy, Dot Gorenflo, Prabhu Devavaram, Cathy Quackenbush,
Paul Quackenbush, Alan Fobes

Chancel Choir Members:

*Helen Hassinger	*Margot Wegman	Jim DeSelms	*Nick Duffin
Julie Anderson	Pat Howkinson	Doug Creed	David Rockwell
Louise Bowler	Holly Vandewall	Beverly Bowman, <i>cello</i>	Mike McConnell
Debra Hall	Amanda Craine		John Sugrue
Jamie Shushan	Merle Perkins		Beverly Bowman
Noemi Sugrue			
Mary McConnell			

**section leaders*

Check-in on Realm, our online church directory

If you already have a Realm account...

1. Click the three dots on the bottom right of your screen, where it says "more".
2. Click on "Mobile Check-In"
3. The event(s) available for check-in will appear, click the empty checkbox of the event you wish to check-in for, and confirm. Your screen will show that you have checked in.



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
Minister of Music
Seminarian
Parish Administrator
Facilities Manager
Sexton
Sexton
Multimedia Producer
Accounting Administrator
Nursery Supervisor
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish
Kent French
Amy Norton
Susan DeSelms
Thomas Mitchell
Sarah Fitzpatrick
David Dunphy
Tom Lou
Ed Thompson
Teaira Perry
Donald Firth
Jenna Bergquist
Patricia Coughlin



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