



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



United Parish's Welcome Back Potluck on the front lawn. September 8, 2019. Photo by Kent French.

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Freedom in Forgiveness

Gathering Music

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

Susan DeSelms
Organ

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.

One: May Christ, the light of the world;
All: Enlighten our hearts with love!

Opening Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nick Duffin and Margot Wegman

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.

Song Leaders

TUNE: NETTLETON

Come, thou fount of ev-'ry bles - sing, tune my heart to sing thy grace,
O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!
streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.
Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed u - pon it, mount of thy re - deem-ing love.
here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Greetings

We warmly welcome all into our midst.

Amy Norton and Kent French

Associate and Senior 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.*

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.

We Return

by Elana Arian and Noah Aronson

Susan DeSelms

Minister of Music

(we re- turn) (we re- turn)

We re- turn We re- turn We re-

turn, re - turn a - gain. We re- turn We re turn

(we re- turn)

We re-turn, re - turn a - gain, and a- gain, to Love
Peace
You

Love
Peace
You

Love
Peace
You

We re - turn a - gain to Love.
Peace.
You. We re turn

Gospel Reading

*We reflect together on this story from the life
and ministry of Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 18:21-35

Mike McConnell

*Exalting in Worship, Reopening and
Pandemic Financial Relief Ministry Teams*

One: 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.

Kent French

Senior Pastor

Sung Response

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

Where Charity and Love Prevail Nick Duffin and Margot Wegman

Song Leaders

TUNE: CONSOLATION



Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is e - ver found._
For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess;_



Brought here to - geth - er by God's love, by love are we thus bound._
And let us love each o - ther well in Chris - tian ho - li - ness._



With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear true char - i - ty we learn;_
Let strife a - mong us be un - known, let all con - ten - tion cease;



Let us with heart and mind and strength now love God in re - turn._
Be Christ the glo - ry that we seek, be ours Christ's ho - ly peace.

Prayers of the People

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

Amy Norton

Associate 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 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 continue our prayers
in poetry and song.*

Lead Me, Lord
by Samuel Wesley

Nick Duffin and Margot Wegman
Song Leaders

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make thy way plain be - fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, on - ly, that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last line.

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.

Timothy Lehmberg
Exalting in Worship Ministry Team

Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*We rejoice our voices
in thanksgiving.*



Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose pow'r up-lifts! Praise the Spir-it Ho-ly
Spi-rit! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of Dedication

We ask God's blessing over the gifts.

Closing Hymn

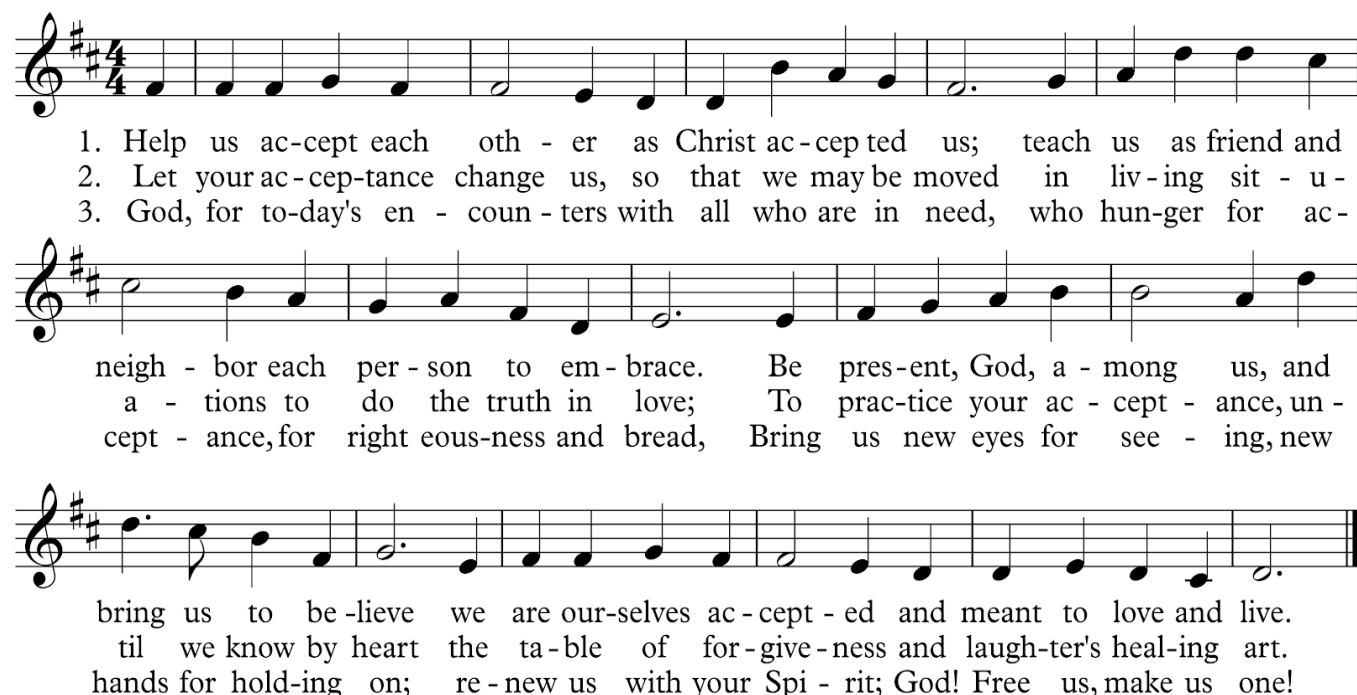
Help Us Accept Each Other

Nick Duffin and Margot Wegman

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

Song Leaders

TUNE: AURELIA



1. Help us ac-cept each oth-er as Christ ac-cepted us; teach us as friend and
2. Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved in liv-ing sit-u-
3. God, for to-day's en-coun-ters with all who are in need, who hun-ger for ac-
neigh-bor each per-son to em-brace. Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us, and
a-tions to do the truth in love; To prac-tice your ac-cept-ance, un-
cept-ance, for right eous-ness and bread, Bring us new eyes for see-ing, new
bring us to be-lieve we are our-selves ac-cept-ed and meant to love and live.
til we know by heart the ta-ble of for-give-ness and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
hands for hold-ing on; re-new us with your Spi-rit; God! Free us, make us one!

Holy Business

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

Benediction

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

Postlude

*We transition out of our
sacred time together.*

Susan DeSelms
Organ

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85697946416?pwd=cXF2aGFFZ1lQcEJ6dEJtLON5c3dTZzO9>

Meeting ID: 856 9794 6416

Password: 371780

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>

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
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
Sarah Fitzpatrick
David Dunphy
Helen Hassinger
Donald Firth
Jack Lilburn
Jenna Bergquist
Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

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