



# 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*



*Image credit: destinyrescue.org*

September 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Adventures in Faith: Helping People Out of Slavery

## Gathering Music

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

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Aidan Molloy  
*Tower Bells*

## 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.*

Jesse Givens

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.*

*Shall We Gather at the River?*

by Robert Lowry

Helen Hassinger

Song Leader

***Shall we gather by the river where bright angel feet have trod;  
With its crystal tides forever that flows by the throne of God.***

***Yes we will gather by the river,  
The beautiful, the beautiful river.  
Gather with the saints by the river  
That flows by the throne of God.***

## Greetings

*We warmly welcome all into our midst.*

Amy Norton and Kent French

Associate and Senior Pastors

## Song of Preparation

*We prepare for confession  
with music and poetry.*

*Steal Away*

Spiritual, arranged by H. T. Burleigh

Stefan Reed

Song Leader

*Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!*

*Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here!* *Green trees are bending, Poor sinner stands a trembling;*

*My Lord, calls me, He calls me by the thunder;*

*The trumpet sounds within a my soul;*

*I ain't got long to stay here.*

*The trumpet sounds within a my soul,*

*I ain't got long to stay here.*

## 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  
*Former Assistant Music Director*

### **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures**

*We reflect together on stories from our forebears in faith.*

Joshua 2:1-16 & Isaiah 1:16-17

Kate and David Jones  
*United Parish Youth Alumni*

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

### **Homily**

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

Cynthia Vreeland  
*United Parish Missions Giving Team*  
*Middle School Church School Teacher*

## Musical Response

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

*If I Had A Hammer*  
by Lee Hays and Pete Seeger

Deb Wald  
Song Leader

*If I had a hammer  
I'd hammer in the morning  
I'd hammer in the evening  
All over this land  
I'd hammer out danger  
I'd hammer out a warning  
I'd hammer out the love between  
My brothers and my sisters,  
All over this land.*

*If I had a bell  
I'd ring it in the morning  
I'd ring it in the evening  
All over this land  
I'd ring out danger  
I'd ring out a warning  
I'd ring out the love between  
My brothers and my sisters,  
All over this land.*

*If I had a song  
I'd sing it in the morning  
I'd sing it in the evening  
All over this land  
I'd sing out danger  
I'd sing out a warning  
I'd sing out the love between  
My brothers and my sisters  
All over this land.*

*Now I've got a hammer  
And I've got a bell  
And I've got a song to sing  
All over this land  
It's the hammer of justice  
It's the bell of freedom  
It's the song about the love between  
My brothers and my sisters  
All over this land.*

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

*There is More Love Somewhere*  
Spiritual

Priya Devavaram  
Song Leader

*There is more love somewhere.  
I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it.  
There is more love somewhere.*

## 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.*

David Flanagan  
Buildings & Grounds Ministry Team  
Chancel Choir

### 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.*

*God Be With You 'till We Meet Again*  
by Jeremiah Rankin and William G. Tomer

Helen Hassinger  
Song Leader

***God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.***

***Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.***

***God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,  
Put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.***

***Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.***

### 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.*

*Ode to Joy*

Luke Molloy  
*Tower Bells*

## **Ways to respond to today's homily**

*Check out these organizations if you'd like to be a part of the solution.*

### **International Justice Mission (IJM) — [ijm.org](http://ijm.org)**

Cindy has been a strong supporter of IJM for more than 20 years, and is continually astounded by all of the great work they do to confront the immensity of the problem.

### **Polaris — [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)**

Polaris runs a national human trafficking hotline, maintains a dataset to increase awareness and educates about how human trafficking really works.

### **My Life My Choice — [mylifemychoice.org](http://mylifemychoice.org)**

A terrific organization that began right here in Boston and now operates in 33 states. They focus on preventing young girls from becoming victims of trafficking, and supporting those who are survivors by pairing them with survivor mentors. They do amazing work and change lives.

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](mailto: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



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