



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*"Abraham's Sacrifice" by Peter Koenig, from [Art in the Christian Tradition](#), Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville.  
Original source [here](#).*

## September 14, 2025 Abraham and Isaac

Nursery care is available for children under 5 years old, upstairs in Room 203, where our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum.

During worship, children are invited to explore our 'Prayground' to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Prayground for those who would like a quiet place to rock or nurse. Rocking chairs are also available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Scan the QR code to the right to fill out a visitor card, contribute to our offering, and more!



**Gathering Music**

*Benedictus*  
by Max Reger

Susan DeSelms  
*Minister of Music*

**\*Chiming the Trinity**

*\*means we invite you to rise in body and spirit*

**\*Opening Hymn**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

All Sing

TUNE: HYFRYDOL



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, on earth be found,  
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spi - rit in - to ev - ery troub - led breast;  
3. Come, Al - migh - ty, to de - li - ver, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us a hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
Let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom - ised rest;  
Sud - den - ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver - more your tem - ples leave.  
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - ve,  
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,



vi - sit us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at li - ber - ty.  
Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
till we cast out crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

**Greetings**

Anna Jeide-Detweiler, *Seminarian*  
Amy Norton-Benfield, *Associate Pastor*  
Kent French, *Senior Pastor*

**Centering Prayer of Confession (*unison*)**

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 take up to one minute to pray our own private confessions in silence.*

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: Hear our prayer.

## \*Assurance of Grace

## \*The Peace of Christ

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

All: And also with you.

## \*Peace Response

*I Thank You for My Life, Body and Soul*  
by Dan Nichols

All Sing

Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Oh \_\_\_\_\_

I thank You for my life \_\_\_\_\_ bo-dy and \_\_\_\_\_ soul. \_\_\_\_\_ Help me re-a-lize

\_\_\_\_\_ I am beau-ti-ful and \_\_\_\_\_ whole. \_\_\_\_\_ I'm per-fect the way I am, \_\_\_\_\_ and a lit-tle bro-ken

too. \_\_\_\_\_ I will live each day \_\_\_\_\_ as a gift I give to \_\_\_\_\_ You. \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading from the Hebrew Bible

[Genesis 22:1-14](#)

Leann Canty  
*UPLIFT Mission Team, Thrifty Threads*

One: The Wisdom of God for the people of God,

All: Thanks be to God!

## Music

Excerpt from *Canticle II, Abraham and Isaac*  
by Benjamin Britten

## Message

Kent French

## Hymn

*My Life Flows on in Endless Song*

New Century Hymnal #476  
TUNE: ENDLESS SONG

One: O God, hear our prayer;  
All: And guide us with your love.

### The Lord's Prayer

*We invite you to use whatever word for God you choose: Mother, Father, Adonai, Allah, or...*

Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
On Earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Offering Invitation

*No gift is too small or too large; all are precious.*

*We encourage everyone to participate in passing the offering plate,  
as an act of our common life together.*

*Ways to contribute:*

1. Place cash, check, visitor card, or "I Give Online" prayer card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code at right.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal (paypal.me/unitedparish),  
Realm (internal directory/database), or at [unitedparishbrookline.org](https://unitedparishbrookline.org).



### Offertory Anthem

#### *Hope Lingers On*

Chancel Choir

by Lissa Schneckenburger, arranged by Andrea Ramsey

*My mother, when love is gone (2x)  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on  
My father, when peace is gone (2x)  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on*

*I will not hate, and I will not fear  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here*

*My sister, when equality's gone (2x)  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on  
My brother, with tolerance gone (2x)  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on*

*I will not hate, and I will not fear  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here*

*My love, when honor is gone (2x)  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on  
My country, when justice is gone (2x)  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers on*

*I will not hate, and I will not fear  
In our darkest hour, hope lingers here*

## Feast of Communion

### Invitation

### Sharing the Meal

### Music During Communion

*Ave Verum*  
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Chancel Choir

*Ave verum corpus natum  
de Maria Virgine;  
vere passum immolatum  
in cruce pro homine,  
cuius latus perforatum  
unda fluxit sanguine;  
esto nobis praegustatum  
in mortis examine.*

*Hail, true Body,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
Who has truly suffered,  
was sacrificed on the cross for mortals,  
Whose side was pierced,  
whence flowed water and blood:  
Be for us a foretaste (of heaven)  
during our final examining.*

### \*Song of Thanksgiving

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

All Sing

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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 power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

### \*Closing Hymn

*Be Still, My Soul*

New Century Hymnal #488

TUNE: FINLANDIA

### \*Holy Business

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

*Sun Dance*  
by Bob Chilcott

Susan DeSelms

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Communion Preparers: Swain Family

Liturgist: Leann Canty

Ushers: Alan Fobes, Emily Turkington, David Mann, Ella M., Madeline Cortes, Carolyn Melbye

## **Take-Home Questions**

How do you know if God is speaking to you?

What is most precious to you in this world? Top five?

How far and for what would you be willing to sacrifice if you thought it was right, what God wanted?

# 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	The People of the United Parish
Senior Pastor	Reverend Kent French
Associate Pastor	Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield
Minister of Music	Susan DeSelms
Seminarian	Anna Jeide-Detweiler
Seminarian	Matisse Peppet
Handbell Choir Director	Tricia Kopko
Choir Section Leader	Ruby Abreu
Choir Section Leader	Emma West
Choir Section Leader	Joseph Timmons
Choir Section Leader	Valentine Umeh
Multimedia Producer	Jordan Wuth
Parish Administrator	Sarah Fitzpatrick
Accounting Administrator	Jim Smith
Building Manager	Rebekah Shore
Head Custodian	Violet Nowlan
Custodian	Emery Bibbins
Custodian	Jesse Kieffer
Nursery Supervisor	Katy Lum
Nursery Staff	Anne Florient
Nursery Staff	Ione Madsen Hardy
Nursery Staff	Ashlyn O'Dowd
Pastor Emerita	Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

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