



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



[Image](#) of Moses parting the Red Sea by Paul Lasaine

October 4, 2026

God is Present When We Are Afraid

The Nursery is available for children 4 and under, 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.

Sensory items (noise-canceling headphones, worry stones, weighted lap blankets, strings of prayer beads, marble mazes, coloring pages etc.) are available to borrow from the Fidget Library at the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the items at the end of worship.

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

Suite Gothique, Opus 25
Chorale, Menuet gothique, Prière à Notre-Dame
by Léon Boëllmann

Susan DeSelms
Minister of Music
and Organist

***Chiming the Trinity**

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

***Opening Hymn**

God is Here!

New Century Hymnal #70

TUNE: ABBOT'S LEIGH

Greetings

Amy Norton-Benfield, *Associate Pastor*
Kent French, *Senior Pastor*

Anthem

I Believe in the Sun
by Mark A. Miller

Chancel Choir

Centering Prayer of Confession *in unison*

based on the Prayer of Saint Francis, on the occasion of his feast day

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**Where we have sown the seeds of hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let us sow pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life...**

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**

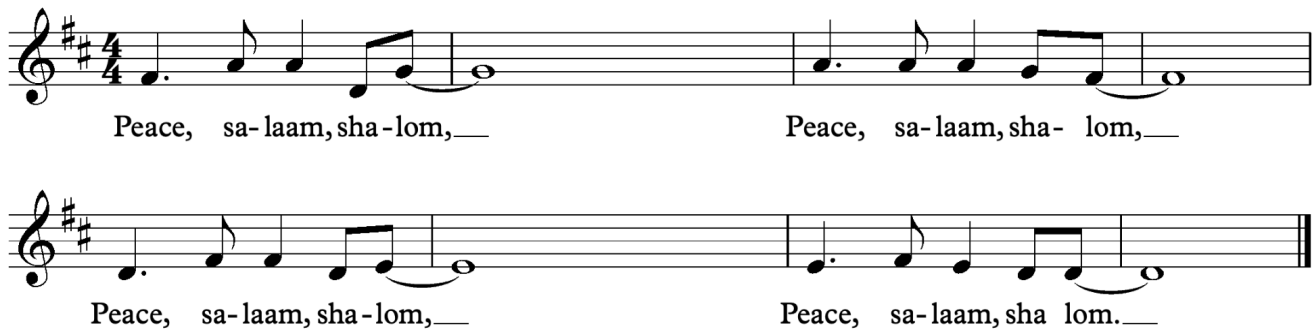
One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

All: **And also with you.**

Peace ResponsePeace, Salaam, Shalom*

All Sing

"Peace, Salaam, Shalom" was written by Emma's Revolution (activists and singers Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow) after September 11, 2001 and it quickly became an anthem of the peace movement. It sets the word 'peace' in English, Arabic, and Hebrew.

**Reading from the Hebrew Bible**

[Exodus 14](#)
Selected verses

Julie Anderson
Chancel Choir
Mental Health Team

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Kent French

Sung Response

My Shepherd Is the Living God New Century Hymnal #247
TUNE: CONSOLATION

Prayers of the People

Amy Norton-Benfield

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.**

Prayer Response

Angels Hovering Round
Traditional

All Sing

One: *There are angels hov'ring round*

All: ***There are angels hov'ring round,
There are an---gels, an---gels hov-'ring round.***

Offering Invitation

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

Peter Rempelakis
Mental Health Ministry Team

*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 prayer card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal (paypal.me/unitedparish), Realm (internal directory), or at unitedparishbrookline.org.

Offertory Anthem

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus
arranged by Alice Parker

Chancel Choir

*I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! There are ten thousand charms.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.*

*Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.*

Feast of Communion

*We practice "open table" communion, meaning that all are welcome to partake.
Communion is served via intinction, and ushers will invite the congregation row
by row to come forward and be served.*

Invitation**Sharing the Meal****Music During
Communion**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence New Century Hymnal #345
TUNE: PICARDY

All join in singing as we take communion.

Song of ThanksgivingPraise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

All Sing

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Descant

Melody (all sing)

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow, Praise God all crea - tures here be -
low Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Praise God the source of all our
low Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Praise God the source of all our
gifts, Ah — Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'r up - lifts Ah — Praise the
gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ whose pow'rs up - lifts! Praise the
Spi - rit, Ho - ly Spi - rit, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
Spi - rit, Ho - ly Spi - rit! Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
lu - ia — Al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia, Al - le - lu ia!

Prayer of Dedication**Closing Hymn***God of Grace and God of Glory* New Century Hymnal #436

TUNE: CWM RHONDDA

Holy Business**Benediction**

Benediction ResponsePeace Before Us*

All Sing

Based on a Navajo prayer, arranged by David Haas

Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us,

Peace,

peace be - neath our feet. Peace with - in us,

Peace, let all a - round us be peace.

peace a - bove us, let all a - round us be peace.

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a variety of musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the corresponding vocal lines.

PostludeToccata, from Suite Gothique*

Susan DeSelms

by Léon Boëllmann

Minister of Music and Organist

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Communion Prep: John Bowman

Liturgists: Julie Anderson, Peter Rempelakis

Ushers: Alan Fobes, Michael McSherry, Lori Miller

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Take-Home Questions

When have you gotten through a difficult or scary time?

Where do you perceive God was in all that?

How would you write God's perspective on your story?

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
Handbell Choir Director
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Parish Administrator
Accounting Administrator
Building Manager
Head Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Nursery Supervisor
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish
Reverend Kent French
Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield
Susan DeSelms
Tricia Kopko
Ruby Abreu
Emma West
Joey Timmons
Valentine Umeh
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Jim Smith
Rebekah Shore
Violet Nowlan
Emery Bibbins
Joy Hanlon
Katy Lum
Ella Boggs
Anne Florient
Isabelle Gardiner
Ione Madsen Hardy
Ashlyn O'Dowd
Patricia Coughlin



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist

210 Harvard Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

617-277-6860

office@upbrookline.org

upbrookline.org