



The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



Lost & Found by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by Luke 15:1-7.

See Artist's Statement at the end of the worship order. © a sanctified art | sanctifiedart.org

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Everything in Between: Lost and Found

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 'Playground' to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Playground 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

Air, from Suite for Organ
by Florence Price

Susan DeSelms
Minister of Music

***Chiming the Trinity**

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

***Opening Hymn**

When Our Minds Are Set and Certain
Text by Hannah C. Brown

All Sing

*When our minds are set and certain, grant us grace that intercedes.
When our hearts are hard with habit, ease us into gentle deeds.
When our ways are planned and patterned, guide us out of rote routine.
Come reform our fixed intentions; teach us in the in-between.*

*When we wander, lost and lonesome, lead us back to flock and fold.
When we ache with want or labor, draw us close to be consoled.
When we judge the ones around us, show us wisdom yet unseen.
Gather all to feast together; join us in the in-between.*

*When the cruel deceive and slander, amplify the kind and true.
When the weight of hate is heavy, strengthen love to pull us through.
Great are small, and weak are mighty as your powers intervene.
Call your people to conversion: heal us in the in-between.*

Call to Worship

Parts of today's liturgy are by the Reverend Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

One: Our God is a shepherding God.

All: **Our God knows us by name.**

One: Our God will never stop searching for us.
So if you feel lost,

All: **Then know that God is seeking you.**

One: If you feel found,

All: **Then know that God will never leave.**

One: This is the promise of scripture.

All: **This is the promise of God's love.**

One: Let us worship our with-us God.

Greetings

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

Song of Preparation *I Thank You For My Life Body and Soul (Yasher Atzar)* Cantor Hollis Schachner
by Dan Nichols *Song Leader*

(Woah--- Woah--- Woah--- Woah---)
I thank You for my life, body and soul
Help me realize I am beautiful and whole
I'm perfect the way I am and a little broken too
I will live each day as a gift I give to You
(Woah--- Woah--- Woah--- Woah---)

Baruch atah, Adonai rofei chol basar umafla laasot.
Praise to You, Adonai our God, who heals all flesh, working wondrously.

Centering Prayer of Confession *unison*

We admit that we are sometimes lost without even realizing it.
We let ourselves get taken off the path,
 out of the groove,
 into the darkness,
 tossed on the sea.
Here in this place, we remember that you, O God, are always willing to find us again,
 That we can never escape your loving search.
Here in this place, help us remember to let you be the painter,
 so that we can be the brush.
To let you be the musician, so that we can be the song.
 To let you be the architect, so that we can be the tools, the hands, the builders.
 To let you be the shepherd, who never stops seeking.
Help us, O God, to be willing to be found,
For no matter how lost we feel, you are never far away.
Search and know our hearts, O God.
 Test us and know our anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in us,
 and lead us in the way everlasting...

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 (Yasher Atzar)* Cantor Hollis Schachner
by Dan Nichols *Song Leader*

(Woah--- Woah--- Woah--- Woah---)
I thank You for my life, body and soul
Help me realize I am beautiful and whole
I'm perfect the way I am and a little broken too
I will live each day as a gift I give to You
(Woah--- Woah--- Woah--- Woah---)

Baruch atah, Adonai rofei chol basar umafla laasot.
Praise to You, Adonai our God, who heals all flesh, working wondrously.

Reading from the Gospel [Luke 15:1-10](#) Carolyn Melbye
Mental Health Team, Usher Ministry

One: For the Good News of Jesus Christ,
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Message Rabbi Lisa Eiduson
Temple Shir Tikva

Choral Response *Hold to God's Unchangin' Hand* Joint Choirs
by Jennie Wilson, arranged by Paul Halley Merle Perkins, *soloist*
Puru Sharma, *drums*

Time is filled with swift transition.
Naught of earth unmoved can stand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Refrain:
You better hold to God's hand,
God's unchanging hand.

Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Trust in God who will not leave you.
Whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to God cling. Refrain

Prayers of the People Anna Jeide-Detweiler and Amy Norton

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

I Believe in the Sun
Music by Mark A. Miller

Joint Choirs
Amy Gilbert, *soloist*

This text is one translation of an inscription found on the wall of an underground shelter in Cologne, Germany. Nine Jewish fugitives were kept safely hidden from the Gestapo by the Catholic resistance in 1945. The fugitives lived hidden from the sun for four months.

*I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God, even when God is silent.*

Offering Invitation

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

Katy Lum, *Nursery Supervisor*
Emmalee Israel, *Church School Teacher*

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, or 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/give.



Offertory Anthem

Mizmor L'David
Arranged by Josh Jacobson

Joint Choirs
Puru Sharma, drums
Magdalena Burbano, clarinet

A Psalm of David. Ascribe to Adonai, O divine beings, ascribe to Adonai glory and strength.

אמְזֹמֹר לַדָּוִד הִבּוּ לַיהוָה בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים הִבּוּ לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד וְעֹז:

Ascribe to Adonai the glory of God's name; bow down to Adonai, majestic in holiness.

בִּהְבֹּי לַיהוָה כְּבוֹד שְׁמוֹ הַשְׁתַּחֲוּוּ לַיהוָה בְּהַדְרַת־קֹדֶשׁ:

The voice of Adonai is over the waters; the God of glory thunders over the mighty waters.

גִּקּוֹל יְהוָה עַל־הַמַּיִם אֶל־הַכְּבוֹד הַרְעִים יְהוָה עַל־מַיִם רַבִּים:

The voice of Adonai is power; the voice of Adonai is majesty;

דִּקּוֹל־יְהוָה בְּכֹחַ קוֹל יְהוָה בְּהַדְרָה:

The voice of Adonai breaks cedars, Adonai shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

הַקּוֹל יְהוָה שִׁבַּר אֲרָזִים וַיִּשְׁבַּר יְהוָה אֶת־אֲרָזֵי הַלְּבָנוֹן:

God makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion, like a young wild ox.

וַיִּרְקְדֵם כְּמוֹ־עֵגֶל לְבָנוֹן וְשִׁרְיוֹן כְּמוֹ־בֶן־רְאִמִּים:

The voice of Adonai kindles flames of fire;

זִקּוֹל־יְהוָה חֲצַב לַהֲבוֹת אֵשׁ:

The voice of Adonai convulses the wilderness;

חִקּוֹל יְהוָה יַחֲלִיל מִדְּבַר יְהוָה מִדְּבַר קֹדֶשׁ:

The voice of Adonai causes hinds to calve, and strips forests bare; while in God's temple all say "Glory!"

טִקּוֹל יְהוָה | יַחֲלִיל אֵילוֹת וַיִּחַשֵׁף יַעֲרוֹת וּבְהִיכְלוֹ לְלוֹ אֲמַר כְּבוֹד:

Adonai sat enthroned at the Flood; Adonai sits enthroned, sovereign forever.

יְהוָה לַמַּבּוּל יָשָׁב וַיִּשָׁב יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ לְעוֹלָם:

May Adonai grant strength to God's people; May Adonai bestow on God's people wellbeing.

יְאִי־יְהוָה עַז לְעַמּוֹ יִתֵּן יְהוָה | יְבַרֵךְ אֶת־עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם:

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

All Sing

We invite children to join the ushers in bringing forth the offering.

TUNE: OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; Praise God all crea - tures here be - low: Praise God for all that Love has done! Cre - a - tor Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn**

Amazing Grace

New Century Hymnal #547

TUNE: NEW BRITAIN

***Holy Business**

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Variations on "Amazing Grace"
by Gwyneth Walker

Susan DeSelms

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Acolyte: Elizabeth L.

Liturgists: Carolyn Melbye, Katy Lum, Emmalee Israel

Ushers: Alan Fobes, Geoff Sanzenbacher, David Mann, Ella M., Nora Teikmanis, Emily Turkington

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Take-Home Questions

When have you felt lost? What was the situation?

When have you felt found? Who or what found you?

Who needs you to find them?

What does it mean for you to imagine God as a shepherd who will go out of their way to find you?

Artist's Statement

Lost & Found by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 15:1-7. Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing

I began my artwork for this series by collaging torn strips of newspaper articles together, overlapping global headlines with photos of current events. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result, editing the photos in black and white. These photos would become the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains, divisions, and everything in between. The collage is also a reference to theologian Karl Barth's famous quote about reading the bible and the newspaper together.⁷ I wanted the gold leaf to represent God's presence in the spaces in between the events and forces that tear us apart.

On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene⁸ reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, then water, then cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and human lives.

We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn due to downed trees or power lines, or washed-out roads. Progressively, we found family and friends, greeting them with great relief and urgent questions: "Do you have enough water to drink? Do you have water for flushing? Do you need any food?" It would be nearly 6 days before any emergency relief could arrive with food, water, and supplies. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters and first responders persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. In that process, I did not wish to become the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. But as I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk. The Good Shepherd steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found."

—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

⁷ Karl Barth, 1886-1968, was a Swiss Reformed theologian. In a 1963 Time Magazine article, he urges young theologians to take the Bible and the newspaper and read both.

⁸ At the end of September 2024, Hurricane Helene hit the Southeastern US, devastating many regions, particularly Western North Carolina. Catastrophic flooding caused billions of dollars of damage, took hundreds of lives, and left many lives unaccounted for.

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
Seminarian
Minister of Music
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Choir Section Leader
Handbell Choir Director
Multimedia Producer
Parish Administrator
Accounting Administrator
Building Manager
Head Custodian
Custodian
Custodian
Nursery Supervisor
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Nursery Staff
Pastor Emerita

The People of the United Parish
Reverend Kent French
Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield
Anna Jeide-Detweiler
Susan DeSelms
Ruby Abreu
Michelé Crowder
Joseph Timmons
Valentine Umeh
Tricia Kopko
Jordan Wuth
Sarah Fitzpatrick
Jim Smith
Rebekah Shore
Violet Nowlan
Emery Bibbins
Jesse Kieffer
Katy Lum
Melanie Caicedo
Anne Florient
Ione Madsen Hardy
Emma Nelson
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