

Participants

Reverend Catherine A. Merrill
Jocelyn Jones

Minister
Piano

Calendar

Thursday, March 29	6:00pm	Maundy Thursday Meal
	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, March 30	Noon-9pm	Good Friday Vigil
Sunday, April 1	6:15am	Sunrise Service, Andres Institute of Art
	10:00am	Easter Service

Last week's attendance (3/18/18): 37 Adults, 6 Children

BCC Financial Summary	Est. Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Est. Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
February		\$5,062.37		\$6,881.41	\$1,819.04
YTD	\$13,789.78	\$11,152.47	\$19,121.97	\$15,232.77	\$4,080.30

Is Your Pledge Up To Date?

For your convenience: reading glasses are available to borrow. They are in a basket on the table at the entry to the sanctuary

Please shop smile.amazon.com and choose Brookline Community Church as your charity.



Brookline Community Church

2 Main Street, PO Box 507

Brookline, NH 03033

Reverend Catherine Merrill

603-673-7511

March 25, 2018

10:00 am

The Joyful Welcome

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: The response to “Blessed is the Coming Kingdom” is “**Hosanna in the Highest!**”

***HYMN: #204 “All Glory, Laud and Honor”**

The Time of Fellowship

OVERVIEW OF HOLY WEEK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INVITATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God’s people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.

Mark 15:33-39

Prayer of the Centurion – (unison) An affirmation of faith
I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God. I believe that his words teach me still, his miracles model a new heaven and earth, and that his dying breath gives me life. I may never fully understand why this coming Friday is called Good, but I claim that not only the Easter day to come, but this bare remembering of loss is the source of grace. Amen.

Mark 15: 40-41

Prayer of the Women – (unison) An expression of thanksgiving
Christ Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, we thank you that you let us stay to the end, experiencing the reality of your death and the mystery of your hope. We thank you that you let us stay to the end of the lives of people who are near to us with your courage and peace. We thank you that, though we are each somewhere on our own journey to death, there is not an inch we need to walk alone. Hear us as we whisper with the weeping women, “We will return at dawn on the first day of the week.” Amen

***HYMN: #216 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**

BENEDICTION

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: # 839 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.**

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Mark 15: 21-24

Prayer of Simon of Cyrene – (unison) For the hope of the world
God, there are famous cross-carriers pulled out of the crowd – Francis of Assisi and Anne Frank, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Teresa – for them we give thanks. There are cross-carriers written on no history page whose children we know, whose elderly parents we’ve met -- and for them we give thanks. Move us to the curb of the Via Dolorosa for our times so we can bear the timber’s weight, carry for Christ his caring for the world. Amen.

Mark 15: 25-32

Prayer of the Bandits – Personal intercessions

Pastor: O Gentle Savior, not because our sufferings and pains are worthy to be named with yours, but because you understand absolutely all the loss and pain and loneliness and desolation of human life and place yourself beside it, we bring you our prayers – for friend and family, neighbor and church member. For those who are ill this day we pray your blessing ...

All: (softly name names, feeling free to let the names overlap one another)

Pastor: For those who suffer emotionally, in relationships, employment, lack of employment, immigration concerns, we pray your blessing ...

All: (softly name names)

Pastor: For those who feel forsaken, we pray your blessing ...

All: (softly name names)

Pastor: For those who are dying, we you’re your blessing

All: (softly name names)

Pastor: For ourselves, we pray your blessing and praise you for your unconditional love. Amen.

WELCOME & RECEPTION

Pastor: Let us, the members of the Brookline Community Church express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

PRAYER FOR THE KEEPING OF THE COVENANT PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

In the tradition of the early church, new members were received on Easter. They were given gifts to help them flourish in their new lives in Christ. We would like to continue that ancient tradition.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

After presenting new members with gifts, the early church would then celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Table. Then, as now, it reminded everyone assembled that they were one family, with one aim of remembering and serving God.

Prayer of Confession:

All: We believe in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. But we can act against those beliefs at time, even as we are surrounded by members of the household of God.

Pastor: We can act against our beliefs and we can repent of those actions.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***HYMN: #690 “Bind Us Together”**

RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP: Extend a greeting to those nearby. Today would be the perfect day to use that most ancient of Christian welcomes “*Peace be with you*” to which one responds, “*and also with you.*”

THE LORD’S PRAYER: **Our Father 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. Amen.**

MINISTRY OF SHARING: (offering of tithes and gifts)

*** DOXOLOGY: # 809 “Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.”**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING**

The Beginning of the Journey to the Cross
SCRIPTURE READING of Mark 15:1-41 with prayers

Mark 15:1-5

Prayer of Pilate – A confession (unison)

Holy God, forgive us the auto-Pilate in our lives – our complicity in the violence’s of the world, hand-washing at the sorrows of our friends, stifling of our truest questions, and the ease with which we are willing to go along with so much, as long as we are not inconvenienced or involved. Amen.

Mark 15:6-15

Prayer of Barabbas – An assurance of grace (unison)

Holy God, we give you thanks for the way we, like Barabbas, stumble out of jail – aware of our guilt, but released, helpless to change our own lives, but forgiven into a new day. Amen.

Mark 15: 16-20

Prayer of the Soldiers – (responsive) For the brokenness of the world

Pastor: For contemporary strippings – of topsoil from earth or education from children

All: We pray for mercy.

Pastor: For the mocking of Internet pornography, the purple bruises of domestic violence

All: We pray for mercy.

Pastor: For the thorn-crowns of landmines and drones, the dice of opioid addiction

All: We pray for mercy.

Pastor: For the way racism spits on people, the hard beating of chronic hunger

All: We pray for mercy.

Pastor: For torture done in our names, and crucifixions of near and far away, gun tragedies and bodies left unburied

All: We pray for mercy. Amen