



Brookline Community Church

October 10, 2021

Reverend Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Prelude: Simple Gifts

We welcome Rev. Teri Motley who will lead us in worship and communion today.

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 22)

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

P: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

L: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

P: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

L: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Announcements

Invocation

Creator, God, be with us now.
In these days of extravagant color and chilly nights,
we know that winter is coming.
Yet we see the ripening of the harvest,
Provisions for the cold and barren times.
Bless us with the harvest of your Word
Center us in hope and faith.
Amen

Hymn: Sing To The Lord of Harvest

Children's Message (for kids of all ages)

What Good is an Acorn?

Pastoral Prayer & Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

[For next week, please feel free to send Barbara Haskell-Higgins your joys & concerns and we will include them in our prayers: barbarajh@comcast.net]

L: Creator God, we pray for a fruitful harvest of grain from the fields and for a healthy global economy, that a fair and just distribution of the world's goods would be accomplished. Hear us, O God;

All: your mercy is great.

L: Strengthen all who labor, on sea or land or in the air, to bring the necessities and enrichments of life to us. Hear us, O God;

All: your mercy is great.

L: Let us pray for justice to prevail in our community, that those in need would be cared for, the oppressed be freed from abuse, and the courts be governed with truth. Hear us, O God;

All: your mercy is great.

L: Let us pray for the healing of all who suffer with pain and illness (especially), that they may be restored to good health and well-being.

(Time for speaking and hearing the names of those about whom we are concerned)

Hear us, O God;

All: your mercy is great.

L: Let us pray for those who are on the fringes of this congregation pondering questions of faith. May they find here a hospitable welcome and experience your presence among us. Hear us, O God;

All: your mercy is great.

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together:

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.

Hymn: I Come With Joy

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:12-16

4:12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

4:13 And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

4:14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

4:16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Mark 10:17-31

10:17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

10:18 Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

10:19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'

10:20 He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth."

10:21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

10:22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

10:23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

10:24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

10:26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?"

10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

10:28 Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."

10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,

10:30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age--houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions--and in the age to come eternal life.

10:31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Reflection on the Scripture:

Who Is Rich?

Call to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given

Hymn: We All Have Gifts To Share

COMMUNION

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

You have promised to receive us when we come to you.

We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.

We have strayed from your laws.

We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should.

Forgive us, O God,

And grant that we may live and serve you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

Words of Assurance

Invitation

Leader: Beloved in Christ,

the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day, sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread

All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west,
from the north and the south and gather around Christ's table.

Leader: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ,
and to share in the community of God's people.

L: God be with You

People: and also with you

L: Lift up your hearts

P: We lift them to God

Communion Prayer

Response

Leader: Christ has died

**(All) Christ has risen,
Christ will come again**

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Elements

Breaking bread and pouring wine

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God,
we give you thanks
that you have refreshed us at your table,
by granting us the presence of Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
build our trust in one another,
and send us into this cool, moist day
in courage, generosity, and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (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.”

Postlude: The Table

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (10/10/21)

If you know those on this list, call on them & tell them we are praying for them. If you know others who should be added to this list please give their names to the minister or a deacon.

- Friends & family of June Hoff and Dave Larkin.
- Luca, Amy's nephew, who's working with a new pediatrician who's helping him and his family
- For everyone to stay as healthy as they can in the days to come
- For the friends & families of those who have died alone
- For our church, that we remain patient with the process of re-opening
- For Rev Catherine's smooth recovery as she recovers from surgery
- For the medical personnel who are working through another overwhelming wave of care needed for those stricken with Covid
- For the people of Afghanistan, as their country's struggles continue
- Continued prayers for Nancy McGinnis, a friend of Susan And Russell's daughter Stacey was diagnosed with liver cancer. She is a 45 year mother of a 4th grade boy and an 8th grade boy
- For John Nicholson's father, whose chemo and surgery seem to be working
- For Alexa from the Village Baptist Church who is battling brain cancer
- For those suffering from addiction
- For all the major life transitions whose impact we feel over time.
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families



Household Prayer: Morning

Steadfast, loving God, in the morning I sing your praise. Give me wisdom for this day and rejoice in me, as I rejoice in you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Steadfast, loving God, in the evening I bless your name. Give me grace for this night and abide with me, as I abide in you. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

For the prophet Amos, the city gate (Amos 5:10, 12, 15) is a place of judgment: a place to discern and decide between good and evil, justice and injustice, righteousness and sin. Jesus has similar things to say about entrance into the kingdom of God (Mark 10:23–25): a difficult choice is required—letting go of privilege, power, and possessions. What have you left behind to follow Jesus? How would you describe what Bonhoeffer calls “the cost of discipleship”?

Announcements:

The church’s financial obligations continue. If you are able, please mail your offering to: Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline, NH 03033.

BCC YTD Financial Summary	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
September	\$76,184	\$63,563	\$12,620

Please shop smile.amazon.com and choose Brookline Community Church as your charity to support the church. Thanks!

The church’s financial obligations continue. There are Several ways to send your offering.

1. Text GIVE to **603 506 4455** for your first time click “SIGN IN” then “REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT”

2. Scan the QR code Below



3. Mail to: Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline, NH 03033.

Rev. Catherine Following her surgery Rev Catherine is on medical leave. If you need anything and aren't sure where to go, please contact Candy Tiner, the church secretary (secretary@bccnh.org, 603-801-5918) or Jill Aitken, chair of the Deacons (jgoods4@gmail.com, 973-713-7832) and they will get you to the right person.

Reaching Out with Outreach

Outreach has been busy so far this year. We collected items to benefit Marguerite's Place, Bridges & Harbor Cares for their veterans transitional facility in Nashua.

We were able to donate in total 7,955 items consisting of diapers, wipes, paper goods, cleaning supplies, bedding & gift cards to these organizations!!

We could not have done this without the generosity of our congregation, Brookline and Hollis communities and the advertising efforts of Megan & Candy.

As non-profit organizations are starting to open up again so are opportunities for volunteer and paid positions. If you are interested or have some time please consider checking out one of the organizations Outreach supports or contact an organization that interests you.

Please feel free to contact Amy Razzaboni at arazz3914@gmail.com or speak with any member of the Outreach Board with any questions or to get more information about our Outreach Organizations and other local non-profits.

Making Music with the Band!

The band is always welcoming singers and instrumentalists of any level to join in making a joyful noise before the Lord. Speak to Sanjay (scherian@charter.net) if you're interested.

Brookline Food Pantry

Although we cannot be together physically at this time, Outreach is continuing to work with Rebecca Purdin through the Brookline Welfare office & CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to address our community's needs.

The Brookline food pantry is now open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-2:00 for drop-offs only. There is a list on the **Brookline Food Pantry's Facebook page** that is being updated as items are needed. In addition to Market Basket gift cards, this week, they're looking for:

- Detergent
- Juice
- Cleaning supplies
- Graham crackers
- Paper towels
- Facial tissues
- Coffee

If you know of anyone who could use some help from the Food Pantry, please let Rebecca or Amy know. We sense there's more need in the community than is currently picking up food.

Non-perishables can be dropped off at Brookline Town Hall (downstairs near the Town Clerk's Office), at the Brookline Post Office, or at the Cozy Tae Cart any time those places are open.

As always, perishable items such as bread, cheese, butter, eggs, meats, and milk can be donated during open pantry hours: Tues and Thurs, 10am - 2pm.

Thank you for your continued support to our church and our community.

Habitat for Humanity Build in Nashua

Although they are not accepting volunteer builders at the moment, we have provided a financial donation to Habitat for Humanity in Nashua. They are currently working on a duplex for two female veterans and their kids. Habitat would welcome financial contributions at this time as well.

Covid-19 Scams Targeting Seniors

The **NH Attorney General's office put out a press release** describing several scams that are targeting seniors. The claims range from needing personal information to get their Social Security payments, to being family members in need of cash to treat Covid-19 symptoms, to offers of fake medical products to prevent Covid-19, to needing personal information to get their stimulus checks, to fake charities. (Honestly, what are people like?!?). Please pass the word.

Covid-19 Information

If people want to know the latest status of Covid-19 in NH and the Emergency orders to date, go to <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

Help Lines

This time of isolation can be very difficult. You may know someone who needs some support beyond what you can provide. We're in this together.

- Suicide prevention: 1-800-273-8255
- Sexual assault: 1-800-656-4673
- Domestic violence: 1-800-799-7233