



Brookline Community Church
August 21, 2022

Prelude: [O God Beyond All Praising by Christ Church Bellingham](#) (such an angelic voice was the way to start today's service)

Call To Worship, Psalm 103:1-8, p. 482

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**All: Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,**

Leader: who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

**All: who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Leader: The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

**All: The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Children's Message: Getting bent out of shape

Hymn: [This is the Day by Maranatha](#)

This is the day,
this is the day
That the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made
We will rejoice,
we will rejoice
And be glad in it,
and be glad in it

This is the day
that the Lord has made
We will rejoice
and be glad in it
This is the day,
this is the day
That the Lord has made

If you have a favorite hymn you'd like to include in our worship service, just send it along and I'll look for a good place for it.

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

The response to "The LORD is merciful and gracious" is "**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**"

Let us recite 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.

[For next week, please feel free to send me your joys & concerns and I'll include them in our prayers: minister@bccnh.org or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

Hymn: [Bless the Lord by Harvest Ministries and Kevin Inafuku](#)

Scripture Reading: Luke 13:10-17, p. 848

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [Come Thou Font of Every Blessing by Reawaken Hymns](#)

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the Mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by Thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood;

Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see thy lovely face
Clothed then in the blood washed linen
How I'll sing thy wondrous grace

Come my Lord no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day

Oh to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Oh take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above

MINISTRY OF SHARING

***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 for the Gifts We've Been Given:**

**Lord of the Sabbath,
we rejoice in offering you these gifts,
that our lives may show forth the wondrous healing
of your love in the world. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 103:1-8)

Leader: Let me offer blessings to the One from whom all blessings flow, let me begin the wave of blessing that pours out into the world. Let me offer blessings with every fiber of my being

All: Because if I offer my blessing, I remember how all I have and all I am comes from God

Leader: God forgives our failings

All: God heals our brokenness

Leader: God redeems our lives from empty vanities

All: God crowns us with steadfast love and mercy so we can sparkle as we walk through the world

Leader: God satisfies us with good, so we remain limber and powerful in our souls

All: God works for justice, through us, for those who are oppressed.

Leader: God has always worked for the widow, the orphan and the foreigner among us, because we were once slaves in Egypt

All: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love

Leader: Amen and ...

All: Amen.

[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: [Bless the Lord, O My Soul \(Psalm 103\) by Sovereign Grace Music](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 103

This is perhaps the best-known and best-loved of all the hymns of praise in the Psalter.

Verses 1-2 are a summons to praise. It begins with the self reminding the self of the fact that all of life must be finally referred to God's goodness. The term rendered "benefits" might be translated as "payoffs," the rewards and punishments God reliably gives.

Verses 3-6 tell the tale: "forgives, heals, redeems, crowns, satisfies." We should notice that in verse 6, we have what seems to be a last element in the list which is often left outside the recital: "works." This last verb is a reminder to us that we need to always keep the goal of justice visible.

In verses 7-8, it is as though, when Israel thinks of such things listed in verses 3-5, Moses inevitably comes to mind.

Verses 9-14 announce that God's way of working and standard of judgment is not like any we expect. We may expect enduring anger, but we do not receive it. So now we see that the "payoffs" of God are not exacting, but stunningly generous. The ground for newness is not in our neediness, but in the will of the loving parent.

Verses 15-18 complete the contrast. We are surprised because we expect God to judge according to calculating human standards. God is utterly unlike humankind, which is transitory and unreliable. Apart from all of those norms, God is marked by steadfast love and righteousness, so long as the partner keeps covenant.

It is no wonder that the concluding summons to praise is expansive (vv. 19-22). The psalm began by calling the self. But now it is all of creation, who are needed to adequately assert who our unutterable God is. Notice the psalm is not specific. The key to this discernment of God is "steadfast love."

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 136-139.



PRAYER LIST (8/21/22)

- Friends & family of Braedon O'Connor, Elly Austin, Patty Birner, Jesse Delrossi, Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin.
- For the friends & families of those who have died alone
- For Luca, Amy's nephew, whose treatments continue
- For those struggling with thoughts of suicide
- For Polly, John Panto's sister, recovering from a stroke, who's moving into another facility
- For Mike Esposito, Miracle Mike, friend of Susan and Russell's family, returning home after months in the hospital and rehab
- For Jill & Kevin's friends' children; Grady is facing surgery and his sister Nayanna is his donor
- For Linda, Amy's aunt, who passed away in the hospital.
- For Henry, Linda & Bob's grandson, who broke his arm, may it heal quickly
- For John Weidman, who had a portion of his lung removed and who is recovering well.
- For the people of Ukraine, who fight on, even as the world looks elsewhere
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning¹

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Healing God, you long to set me free from bondage so that I may serve you in perfect freedom: forgive the ways in which I have been unable to stand in your freedom this day, and strengthen me this night that in the morning I may arise in the support and goodness of your love. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

The writer of Hebrews says that God is a "consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). Why is this good news?

Daily Awareness Reflection²

At the end of the day, I've been asking myself the following questions. I jot down the answers and ask them again the next evening. I've found it helps me to remain centered as well as increasing my awareness of God in my life. It takes about 10 minutes.

1. Slow down. Stop. Prepare yourself to pray by becoming aware of the love with which God looks on you ...
2. Note the gifts God has given you today. Give thanks to God for them ...
3. Ask God that this be a time of special grace and revelation ...
4. With God, review the day. Look at the stirrings of your heart, your thoughts, and your choices as the day progressed. Which have been of God? Which have not? What does God want to say to you about both? ...
5. Ask for forgiveness for failures/omissions, for healing from their effects ...
6. Look forward to the following day, and plan concretely with God how to live it according to God's desire for your life ...

¹ The Morning & Evening Prayer and Question for Reflection are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

² Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

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.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
July	\$36,830	\$53,799	(\$16,969)

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

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



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

Join Outreach and Be a Part of the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

Outreach is asking for donations of **NEW** socks & underwear, blankets, long sleeve sweatshirts and sweatpants, gently used coats or clothing for the cold winter months coming up. These items will be given out to the veterans at this event.

Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, September 18th. There will be a barrel outside by the parking lot side door to put items in, leave in the front hall at the church or drop off Friday Sept 9th between 1-4:30 during Take Home Meal.

You may also send in a monetary donation to the Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline NH 03033. Please note to be used for Stand Down items.

Contact Amy Razzaboni at arazz3914@gmail.com for more info. There's also a flyer with more event details further down in the bulletin.

Need a break from the heat? The Library is nice and cool!

The library is a great place to retreat to if you need an airconditioned space to hang out in. See their [website](#) for hours.

Brookline is in a severe drought!

You can learn more about drought conditions from the [NH Dept. of Environmental Services website](#). There is also [a guide for private well owners and information](#) on the Water Assistance for Natural Disaster Impacts to Low-Income Residential Well Owners Program.

ARE YOU 60 or OLDER or KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS? DO YOU LIKE A GREAT MEAL?

If you do ... BE ON THE BROOKLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON LIST. We have lunches periodically on Saturdays throughout the year just for the 60 and older crowd. If you are interested, just let us know how you would like to be contacted for notices of these lunches (email, mail, Facebook ..., etc.) Any questions.... just ask Megan King (kingmegan7@gmail.com) or Amy Razzaboni (arazz3914@gmail.com).

Brookline Food Pantry

The Brookline food pantry is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-2:00 for drop-offs [Brookline Food Pantry's Facebook page](#) has updates. And there's now [a long, robust Google doc](#) that shows what they need.

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

Get Your Parking Placards for the Lake!

We hope to worship more often at the Lake than in previous years. So make sure you have an up to date parking placard.

Would You Like to Pick the Music for Worship?

Music is not one of Rev. Cath's gifts, so she gets help from a variety of people. If you'd like to try picking the music once or many time, please let her know (minister@bccnh.org). Yifan's happy to do it. He knows how much he enjoys it and want other folks to have an opportunity if they'd like to give it a try.

Homeless keys looking for an owner on the back table:

In tidying up the 3rd floor classrooms, we found a number of keys that are looking for a home. They may have been there a while, so see if they were the set you were never able to find! See Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) for more details.

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 (or 988)
- Sexual assault: 1-800-656-4673
- Domestic violence: 1-800-799-7233

NH is now part of the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

New Hampshire is announcing the launch of 988, the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL). People can call 988 to be connected with trained counselors that are part of the existing NSPL network.

Free Covid Home Tests

1. Gov. Sununu [announced a program to deliver free Covid home tests to NH residents](#). You just go to [the program's website](#), put in your zip code and then follow the prompts. They're delivered via Amazon.

2. The federal government will deliver four tests to your home. Just enter your details on a special [US Post Office web page](#). And if you've ordered 4 in the past, you can get four more the same way!



NH STAND DOWN
for veterans experiencing homelessness
Sept. 23, 2022
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Location: Harbor Care Health & Wellness Center, 45 High Street, Nashua



MORE INFORMATION

Donations & Other Questions Contact Richard Odonnell 603-882-3616 x 1199 r.odonnell@harborcarenh.org	Table & Attendance Questions Contact Andrea Reed 603-882-3616 x 1111 a.reed@harborcarenh.org
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Help is available if you're a veteran experiencing homelessness!

- Employment Services
- Medical Advice
- Food
- Clothing
- Haircuts
- Legal Advice
- Pension Claims
- Advising
- Counseling

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