



*Brookline Community
Church*

October 16, 2022

Rev. Catherine A. Merrill

Prelude: [*Psalm 121 \(A Psalm for Help\)*](#) by Hal Leonard and the Shawnee Press
[Church Choral](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 121, p. 498

A Song of Ascents.

Leader: I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

**All: The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

Leader: The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

**All: The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.**

RESPONSE: [#820 Threefold Amen \(Danish\)](#)

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

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: [Watching Over Us \(Psalm 121\) by Christabelle Braden](#)

Oh He is watching over you
He will not let your foot be moved
He is not sleeping, He will not slumber
The Lord is your keeper, no evil will harm you
As He is watching over you

Chorus

I lift my eyes to the mountains
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord
The maker of heaven and earth
The maker of heaven and earth

Oh He's the shade at your right hand
By day and night He will be there
The sun will not strike you, the moon will not hurt you.
The Lord's standing guard to protect and preserve you
As He's the shade at your right hand

Chorus x2

You're the maker of heaven and earth
I lift my eyes to you, Jesus
You're always there for us
He's watching over us Our coming and going
Over us Every moment
God with us Now and forevermore
Repeat 4x

Chorus x2

He's watching over us Our coming and going
Over us Every moment
God with us Now and forevermore

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.

Children's Message:

Hymn: [Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown by Charles Wesley](#)

Come, O Thou Traveler unknown,
Whom still I hold, but cannot see;
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with Thee;
With Thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell Thee who I am,
My misery or sin declare;
Thyself hast called me by my name;
Look on Thy hands, and read it
there!

But who, I ask Thee, who art Thou?
Tell me Thy name, and tell me now.

In vain Thou strugglest to get free;
I never will unloose my hold.
Art thou the Man that died for me?
The secret of Thy love unfold:

Wrestling, I will not let Thee go,
Till I Thy name, Thy nature know.

'Tis Love, 'tis Love! Thou diedst for
me!

I hear Thy whisper in my heart!
The morning breaks, the shadows
flee;

Pure universal Love Thou art:
To me, to all, Thy mercies move;
Thy nature and Thy name is Love.

The Sun of Righteousness on me
Hath risen with healing in his wings;
Withered my nature's strength;
From thee, my soul its life and succor
brings;

My help is all laid up above;
Thy nature, and they name is Love

Standing for Stewardship

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:22-31, p. 26

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

[RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen \(Danish\)](#)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [Jacob's Song by Gabrielle Ariana](#)

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:**

Eternal God, who provides for our every need, invites us to give of ourselves as we work and wait for the coming reign of Christ. May these gifts be signs of your grace, and may our lives show forth the coming kingdom, that when Christ comes again he will find faith on earth. Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 121)

Leader: We're on this journey, LORD. And there is so much danger we have to pass through. Where are we going to get the help we need?

All: God made the hills and dales. God made the road the journey runs on. God will always be our help.

Leader: Will the one who keeps us safe let our feet slip? Will we be able to stray beyond God's notice as we journey through life?

All: God who chose God's people, God who leads God's people, God who loves God people, will never fall asleep at the switch. God will always keep God's eye on us, no matter where we go.

Leader: Who will keep us safe, protect us from the dangers of the journey, help us avoid the suffering from the sun's heat and the moon's madness?

All: God will shield all of us, from dangers we cannot avoid or bear, because we will never be alone.

Leader: Who will keep us safe from all evil? Who will keep our life safe, even when we cannot figure out where this journey is taking us?

All: God will keep our going out and our coming in, all the moves we make, safe and guarded, not just today, but every moment into the future, no matter where our journey ends up taking us.

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: [He Will Keep You \(Psalm 121\) by Sovereign Grace Music](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 121

This psalm, along with Psalm 23, is our best-loved psalm. It is a song for pilgrims under way to Jerusalem who are passing through ominous terrain. The hills are filled with threat and danger that evoke the question of “help” (v. 1).

The simple, direct, unambiguous answer in verse 2 is that God is the single, necessary, all-sufficient source of help who will give protection. As creator of “heaven and earth,” moreover, God is surely sovereign over “the hills,” even if they seem full of threat.

In the following (vv. 3-8), God is credited with three characteristics: (a) God protects the path of the pilgrims; (b) God is vigilant and does not sleep; and (c) God is endlessly awake and attentive. God is the keeper, the one who guards, protects, preserves, and keeps safe. Thus, in verse 4 the questions of verse 1 is fully answered.

In verses 5-8, more statements are made concerning God, only now God is explicitly named four times. Verse 5 reiterates the primary claim of verses 3-4: God is “keeper.” God is like a shade tree to protect travelers from the heat of the sun; the poetic parallel of the moon is added, for one does not need to be protected from the moon.

From the specificity of sun and moon, verses 7-8 make a more general claim. Now God protects the traveler from “all evil,” from every possible threat. It is God who keeps one’s life safe, even in dangerous circumstances. The traveler is safe departing and arriving, and all along the way.

The psalm voices a simple, direction confidence in God. The term “keep” (along with “help”) governs the poetry. The recurrence of the term “keep” attests to the abiding, complete trustworthiness of the presence of God in every season of risk.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 525-527.



PRAYER LIST (10/16/22)

- 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, who will split her time between her home and a memory care facility
- For Mike Esposito, Miracle Mike, friend of Susan and Russell's family, returning to the hospital for more surgery
- For Carol, Candy's aunt, returning for more tests, possibly for cancer
- For Sue, Amy's friend, who has returned to the hospital after being at home for a bit
- For the people of Ukraine, who fight on, even as the world looks elsewhere
- For the people of Taiwan, searching for peace in the face of hostility
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning¹

Thank you, gracious God, for giving me a limp. You have let me struggle with you; you have blessed me; you have marked me as your own. Send me out today, with all my frailties and weaknesses, to be a witness to your love, grateful for another day to sing your praise. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. God will not let your foot be moved; the One who keeps you will not slumber. God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

“I will not let you go,” said Jacob to the night stranger, “unless you bless me.” What does it mean to struggle for a blessing—from others or from God? How does that struggle manifest itself in your life?

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 +/-
September	\$65,650	\$67,702	(\$2,052)

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.

The Christmas Raffle committee is looking for donations for the following prizes:

- High Spirits (various bottles of alcohol, like vodka, gin, whiskey, etc),
- Family Time (games, puzzles, books, etc) We have an Uno card game so far,
- Sugar Rush! (Any candy)

Thank you for any contributions! We are off to a great start! Contact Donna Bretschneider for info/questions. (603) 860-5291 or dbret@charter.net.

Senior Luncheon, Turkey Dinner with Apple Crisp, October 29, 11:30am

Our guest speaker will be Angie Dacey, Brookline Welfare Officer. We'd welcome anyone who'd like a good meal in great company!

Are you 60 or older? Do you 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).

Looking for Toddler Clothes for Local Girl

The grandmother who recently got custody of her granddaughter is looking for fall and winter clothes for her. They need: Size 2T Girl: Long sleeve shirts, Sweatshirts, Pants, Hat, Gloves, Snow pants, Snow boots size 7 (toddler). They usually shop at Target.

Trunk or Treat on October 29, 2:30-4:00pm

The Library is sponsoring a Trunk-or-Treat at the RMMS parking lot. It's basically Trick or Treat, but the treats all come out of the trunk of your car. It's a

great opportunity for the church to be out in the community. If you'd like to volunteer to help, please let Susan Haight know (sdlhaight@gmail.com).

Trick or Treating at the Church on Oct. 31

In addition to the Trunk-or-Treat on October 29, we'd also like to participate in the town's Trick or Treat time from the church scheduled on October 31, probably from 6:00-8:00pm. If you're willing to hand out treats at the church, let Rev. Cath (minister@bccnh.org) know.

Fall Food Drive

Our local food pantries are seeing an unprecedented number of people seeking assistance to help feed their families. The rising costs of fuel, electricity and rents are leading more people to ask for help.

Fall is typically a time of low food donations as most people are thinking ahead to what they can donate at Holiday time, but this year they need help NOW!

Outreach is asking for the following food items to benefit both the Brookline Food Pantry and Share Food Pantry in Milford, NH who also supports the Brookline community.

Cereal	Baking mixes
Snacks (peanut butter crackers, granola bars, fruit cups etc)	Sugar & Flour
Chicken & Beef Broths	Holiday Dinner Items

These items can be brought to the church and placed in the outside bin by the side door, in the basket in the front hall or dropped off during Take Home Meal on Friday, Oct 7th from 1:00-5:00.

If you would like to make a monetary donation you can mail a check to the Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline NH 03033 and note the check is for the October Food Drive.

Contact Amy Razzaboni at 603-801-9210 or arazz3914@gmail.com with any questions.

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.

Thanks for Making the 2022 Stand Down for Homeless Veterans a Success

Outreach would like to thank everyone who donated to the 2022 Stand Down Event for Homeless Veterans. Through the generosity of our congregation, THM customers and the communities of Brookline and Hollis we collected 96 pairs of socks, 38 pairs of underwear, 41 sweatshirts and sweatpants, 7 winter coats, blankets, and other clothing items to help keep our homeless veterans warm this

coming winter. Please keep these Veterans in your prayers and let us not forget their sacrifices while serving this Country.

Help Lines

You may know someone who needs some support beyond what you can provide.

- Suicide prevention: 1-800-273-8255 (or 988)
- Sexual assault: 1-800-656-4673
- Domestic violence: 1-800-799-7233