



*Brookline Community Church*

*December 4, 2022*

**Prelude:**

**Call To Worship, Psalm 72:1-7. 18-19, pp. 464 & 465**

Of Solomon.

Leader: Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.

**All: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

Leader: May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.

**All: In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

Leader: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**All: Blessed be his glorious name for ever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.**

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

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is shaped in a ring. It shows the circle of God's unbroken love. Each week we will invite a "family" to light the candles in the wreath. This week the Trustees will light the candles to bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

Lighter 1: The Gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:  
In the fifteenth year  
of the reign of Emperor Tiberias, ...  
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah ....  
He went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins. (*Luke 3:1-3*)

Lighter 2: God comes to us through particular people,  
in particular places and times  
in the past, and here and now.  
Our second candle reminds us  
to look for the light of God  
in God's messengers today.  
  
(Light the first & second candles)

Lighter 1: Living Christ, give us faith to trust you  
And hope to follow you.

**All: We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

Light the Advent candle two,  
Think of humble shepherds who;  
Filled with wonder at the sight,  
Of the child on Christmas night.

**Refrain:**

Candle, candle burning bright,  
Shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle burning bright,  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

**A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:**

The response to "Hear us, O God;" is "**your mercy is great.**"

**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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

**\* Hymn: #135 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

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.

**Celebration of Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>**

**Stations of Welcome**

**Stations of Remembering**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**Sharing of the Elements**

**Stations of Thanksgiving**

**\* Hymn: #745 Jesus Shall Reign**

**Romans 15:4-13, p. 924**

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

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

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<sup>1</sup> The communion liturgy was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Stations of the Crèche Communion — December 4, 2022" Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted November 23, 2022, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2022/11/23/stations-of-the-creche-communion-december-4-2022/> (accessed November 30, 2022).

**\* Hymn: *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* to the tune of #204 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*<sup>2</sup>**

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly, All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me;  
Your Thirst for my salvation, Procured my liberty.  
O Love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace,  
In Love all loves excelling, Our lost and fallen race.

O glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail nor leave me, As earthly riches fly.  
My heart shall bloom forever, For You with praises new,  
And from Your name shall never, Withhold the honor due.

**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:**

**We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things:  
for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness;  
for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision,  
setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life;  
and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism  
and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.  
Turn our offerings to your good will,  
and turn us always to you in gratitude.**

**Announcements**

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<sup>2</sup> Words from *The Presbyterian Hymnal*: Westminster/John Knox Press.

## **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 72)**

Leader: You have taught us that those who lead the people must serve justice, must build up the ways that all of us can remain in right relationship with God and each other.

**All: We ask that everyone who leads, from the president down to the girls scouts leading the singing at tonight's Tree Lighting, first care for the poor and the needy, may they turn away the bullies and oppressors.**

Leader: We ask that all who lead, lead like Jesus of Nazareth, who was always among those who had no one to speak for them, who were poor in land or poor in money or poor in words or social standing. He led them to flourishing life, just as we can.

**All: May the righteousness Jesus sought to grow be more than gross domestic product. May it be in the health of our children, the quality of their education, and the joy of their play. May it be in the strength of our marriages, and the intelligence of our public debate. May it be in everything that makes life worthwhile.**

Leader: Let us offer our blessing on everyone who is leading as God calls them to lead, called to offer wondrous things in a world starved of wonder.

**All: May God's work in this world be a blessing to everyone, until the whole earth is filled with glory and wonder.**

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:**

*Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.*

**Notes:**

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Psalm 72

One of the Royal Psalms, Psalm 72 argues that the king has a responsibility to support and sustain the life of the poor and the marginal when they have no resources by which to sustain themselves. The psalm envisions a quite assertive, initiative-taking royal government on behalf of the poor and the needy.

The notion of justice and righteousness has to do with economic maintenance and with the maintenance of an independent judiciary that would not be merely an exploitative tool of the powerful. Thus, the verbs in verse 4, “defend, deliver, crush,” surely concern a viable court system in which the marginal can expect reliable redress from the rapaciousness of an acquisitive society.

The juxtaposition of verses 1-4 and 12-14 concerning care for the vulnerable by the regime and verses 5-7, 8-11, and 15-17 envisioning extravagant well-being for the regime form the contrast that makes the point of the psalm: care for the poor that becomes the basis for economic prosperity in the realm. The unstated but surely implied negative counterpoint is the recognition that neglect of the poor through economic indifference will inevitably lead to military failure and economic collapse.

But what human king or political leader has ever lived up to such expectations? Psalm 72 reminds us that while we cannot perfectly reflect the community creating justice that characterizes God’s purpose, we should also reject a self-indulgent refusal to attempt to bend public power toward genuine communal well-being.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 311-316.



## PRAYER LIST (12/4/22)

- Friends & family of Elly Austin, Patty Birner, Jesse Delrossi, Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin, Scott Higgins, Ed Krom, Ron Whitebred, Chris Crowder.
- 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 has moved full time into a memory care facility
- For Mike Esposito, Miracle Mike, Stacey Haight's friend, moving around with a walker, having a surgery to remove some of the hardware installed after his motorcycle accident
- For Carol, Candy's aunt, still working through the medical diagnosis process to figure out what is causing what is clearly not right
- For Flora, Marjorie's mom, who has recently moved into a memory care unit and is struggling because it's not what she's familiar with
- For Luke, Jessica's family friend, who has entered hospice care
- For Jim, Donna's dad, who fell and broke his shoulder
- For those who will be helped by the donations from our recent food drive, that their balancing act of food, gas and housing might become easier
- For the families who are getting help from SHARE to make this Christmas a merrier one, especially the two families we're supporting.
- For George, a beloved grandfather, in the hospital in Boston, may he recover fully and quickly and be home soon.
- For Alex, Marjorie's friend, going for his last chemo treatment before returning to the Mayo Clinic, hopefully for good news.
- For Cassie, Amy's mom, who fell and broke her hip, may she recover soon
- 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: Morning<sup>3</sup>**

As I rise, O God, I give you thanks for safety in the night, for rest from my labors, for another day in this creation. Turn my eyes toward what is noble. Teach me to see hope where it is veiled. Give me the wisdom to desire the good. Help me to love not only those I encounter but myself as well, for with you, I know my many frailties and failings. Let peace reign. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

As I end this day, Holy One, I give you thanks for the richness of my hours: for family and friends, for people with whom I work and play, for my neighbors, for those who fill this world with music and art, for those whose needs remind me of my blessings and whose skills make me grateful for differences. Guard us all, O God, and keep us in your embrace until the daylight comes. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Look for places where the wolf and the lamb lie down together in peace. Where do you see that peace in your relationships, in your family or circle of friends, in the neighborhood, the city, the nation, and the world? Even within yourself, where has peace been forged between previously warring factions?

### **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>4</sup>**

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 ...

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 +/-
October	\$78,268	\$75,200	\$3,068

Please shop [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

## Gifts for SHARE families due by December 11<sup>th</sup>

This Christmas our church will be helping to make the holiday merrier for area families by participating in the SHARE gift-giving project. This year, we have adopted two families this year.

Please help by choosing a gift tag (or two) from the wreath located in the lower front entryway of the church. Instructions are located in the folder on the wall next to the wreath.

Please have gifts in the church on or before Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

## Offering Envelopes

If you would like offering envelopes, talk to Rena or email her at [renaduncklee@charter.net](mailto:renaduncklee@charter.net).

## Serving the church on one of our committees

We have openings on several church committees. We like to have people rotate on and off our committees so everyone has a chance to serve and to rest. Most are three-year terms, but we can certainly be flexible about how the roles are filled. We are looking for folks for Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees, Finance Committee, Stewardship, Deacons and Pastoral Relations. If you're interested in learning more, please let Ann ([moderator@bccnh.org](mailto:moderator@bccnh.org)) or Rev. Cath ([minister@bccnh.org](mailto:minister@bccnh.org)) know.

## Christian Education Coming up on January 1, 8:30-9:30am

We'll be continuing our Christian Education program (for both kids and adults) on January 1 (start the year with Jesus!). Coming up: Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Mar. 26 (Palm Sunday is Apr. 2, so we'll meet a week early), May 7, Jun. 4.

## **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.

## **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