

*Brookline Community Church*  
*January 1, 2023*



**Prelude:** [All Praise to Thee by Elaine Hagenberg](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 8, p. 427**

To the leader: according to The Gittith. A Psalm of David.

**Everyone: O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

Leader: You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

**All: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;**

Leader: what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?

**All: Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.**

Leader: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,

**All: all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

**Everyone: O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

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

**Children's Message: New Things**

**Hymn: [All Things New – He Has Come by Garrett Hornbuckle](#)**

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:**

**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: [O Life that Makes All Things New by the Newsong Group](#)**

O Life that maketh all things new  
The blooming earth, the thoughts of  
men! Our pilgrim feet, wet with thy  
dew, In gladness hither turn again.

One in the freedom of the truth.  
One in the joy of paths untrod.  
One in the soul's perennial youth.  
One in the larger thought of God.

From hand to hand the greeting  
flows, from eye to eye the signals  
run, from heart to heart, the bright  
hope glows, the seekers of the Light  
are one.

The freer step, the fuller breath, yhe  
wide horizon's grander view, the  
sense of life that knows no death, the  
Life that maketh all things new.

**Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:1-6a, pp. 1007-1008**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.'

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

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**Hymn: [All Things New by Big Daddy Weave](#)**

**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:**

**Gathering God,  
you have brought us together  
from many backgrounds and conditions  
to be this church together.  
Therefore we praise you with songs, shouts,  
and these offerings and gifts.  
Multiply them for your service,  
that they might become your presence in the world. Amen**

**Announcements**

## **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 8)**

**Everyone: O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**Leader:** We look up into the night sky, and we're as incoherent as babies, only able to offer up a completely inadequate "wow." With the entire cosmos to live in, you choose to dwell with us, with all our chaotic, sinning, constantly dropping the ball ways.

**All:** **When I look at the moon and the stars, all the vast distances, all the amazing mathematics that can explain them, I have to marvel at your tenderness towards humanity, that you would give us a universe we could model and explore from this one radiant blue marble, shining in the darkness.**

**Leader:** And yet you have made humanity only a little lower than God and the angels, you created us with breath and earth, and the ability to bring light to one another with inventions and words.

**All:** **You have asked us to care for all your creation, to take care all the creatures of the land, the birds of the air, the fish in the sea, and all the mysteries and curiosities that thrive in the deep, and the dark, and the scorching and the frozen.**

**Leader:** And if we are to care properly for all we've been entrusted with, if we are to be good shepherds to all of creation, we need to remember who brought all this in being from nothing and who will bring it all to a powerful ending.

**Everyone: O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

[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: [All Things New by Steven Curtis Chapman](#)**

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

## Notes:

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### Psalm 8

Psalm 8 is an articulation of creation faith. It is framed in verse 1a and verse 9 by an envelope of praise to the regal Creator. In verses 1b-2 there is a celebration of God's glory which is matched in verses 3-8 by a comparable celebration of humankind, which is now the center and focus of God's creative work.

Verses 3-8 identify the role of human kind, first in relation to heavenly beings (v. 5), then in relation to all other creatures (vv. 6-8). In the first relation, human kind is marked by glory and honor. These attributes generally relate to God and are here assigned to humanity. In the second relation, humankind is authorized to have dominion over all other creatures, again an attribute characteristically assigned to God.

The structure of the psalm is worth observing closely. At its center is an affirmation of human power and authority. At its boundaries are affirmations of praise to God. The center (v. 5) and the boundaries (vv. 1, 9) must be read together; either taken alone will miss the point. Human power is always bounded and surrounded by divine praise. Doxology gives dominion its context and legitimacy. The two must be held together. Praise of God without human authority is abdication. But to use human power without the context of praise of God is to profane human regency over creation and so usurp more than has been granted. Human persons are to rule, but they are not to receive the ultimate loyalty of creation. Such loyalty must be directed only to God.

This psalm recognizes that humankind is the crown and pinnacle of creation, but even human power is shaped and qualified by doxology.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 36-38.



## PRAYER LIST (1/1/23)

- Friends & family of Jesse Delrossi, Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin, Scott Higgins, Ed Krom, Ron Whitebred, Chris Crowder, Morris Nicholson.
- 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.
- 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, in her new home in the memory care unit
- For Luke, Jessica's family friend, who has entered hospice care
- For Jim, Donna's dad, who continues to balance his medical needs
- For those who are balancing food, gas and housing in tough times
- For the families who are getting help from SHARE to make this Christmas a merrier one, especially the two families we're supporting.
- For Alex, Marjorie's friend, continuing to work towards an "all clear" from his cancer.
- For Cassie, Amy's mom, who fell and broke her hip, may she recover soon
- For the friends and family of Matthew, Jessica's childhood friend, who died of a brain tumor, leaving children and parents behind
- For the friends and family of Andrew, Candy's four year old cousin, who passed away less than a week after catching the flu
- For the friends and family of Paulette, Rena's daughter-in-law's mother, who passed away from cancer.
- For Mary, Rena's high school friend, who's facing back surgery.
- 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>1</sup>**

God who gives birth to the new heaven and the new earth, midwife in me your love made flesh for others as I live in your world today. Amen

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Holy One, as I review my day and all I have done—or not done—lavish me once again in your grace, that I may rest in the inheritance of being one of your children, trusting this evening in the renewing power of your love. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

How have you received “grace upon grace” in your life through Jesus Christ? Can you think of times when God has turned your mourning into joy, your sorrow into gladness? Does the incarnation of Christ call us to “make flesh” the love of God for others?

### **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>2</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>1</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>2</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 +/-
November	\$82,450	\$83,380	(\$930)

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.

## 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 February 5, 8:30-9:30am

We'll be continuing our Christian Education program (for both kids and adults) on February 5. Coming up: 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