



Prelude: [*Wade in the Water* by The Lagos Community Gospel Choir](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 29, p. 438

A Psalm of David.

Leader: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

Leader: The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

**All: The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

**The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

Leader: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**All: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'**

Leader: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

**All: May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

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

Children's Message: Jesus, John and the River Jordan

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:

[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: [River of Glory music by Dan Schutte](#)

River of glory, springs of our birth,
flood of God's riches poured on the earth.
We are born from the darkness and clothed in the light!
We are bathed in the glory of God!

Fountain of mercy, grace flowing free,
streams of salvation, spilling with love from a tree!

River of glory, springs of our birth,
flood of God's riches poured on the earth.
We are born from the darkness and clothed in the light!
We are bathed in the glory of God!

Here there is haven, healing and health,
joy for the asking, love in abundance of wealth!

River of glory, springs of our birth,
flood of God's riches poured on the earth.
We are born from the darkness and clothed in the light!
We are bathed in the glory of God!

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17, pp. 784-785

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

**Reflection on the Scripture:
Prayer for the King Holiday¹**

Hymn: Lift Every Voice and Sing by SBILLIFE with Papa Phatal aka Carlos K

Lift every voice and sing, till earth
and Heaven ring, Ring with the
harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the
listening skies, Let it resound loud as
the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the
dark past has taught us, Sing a song
full of the hope that the present has
brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day
begun, Let us march on till victory is
won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the
chastening rod, Felt in the days when
hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our
weary feet, Come to the place for
which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with
tears has been watered, We have
come, treading our path through the
blood of the slaughtered;

Out from the gloomy past, till now we
stand at last Where the white gleam
of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our
silent tears, Thou Who hast brought
us thus far on the way;

Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us
into the light, Keep us forever in the
path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places,
our God, where we met Thee. Lest
our hearts, drunk with the wine of the
world, we forget Thee.

Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may
we forever stand, True to our God,
true to our native land.

¹ Today's Prayer for the King Holiday was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "For the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted August 24, 2013, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2013/08/24/1794/> (accessed January 11, 2023).

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:**

Great, saving God,
you have gathered us into one baptism,
regardless of our backgrounds and conditions.
Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings.
May they join with others to become a mighty river,
bringing your peace and healing to the world. Amen.

Announcements

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

Leader: In ancient places, in ancient voices, everyone and every thing from way before to here and now, come together to worship God.

All: God is the most powerful force in the cosmos, rolling like thunder over the lands.

Leader: The voice of God can change the face of the planet, can break open the hearts of the powerful, and bring justice and righteousness to places which are bereft of either.

All: The voice of God can change reality in a lightning flash. The voice of God can call peace out of war. The voice of God can make the elements of the world, earth, fire, wind and water, dance. The voice of God can make order out of chaos, make right out of wrong.

Leader: The voice of God can strip the leaves from the trees. The voice of God can strip hypocrisy from those who prefer to leave the world more broken than how they found it.

All: God sits on God’s throne, more powerful than the chaos of natural disaster, more powerful than the chaos of human hearts.

Leader: May God give strength to God’s people, that we might stand against the chaos of this world.

All: May God bless God’s people, that we might unite together in peace.

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: [A Change is Gonna Come by Sam Cooke](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 29

This psalm reflects Canaanite mythology and rhetorical structures. This may therefore be one of the oldest psalms. The summons to worship (vv. 1-2) is addressed to the “sons of God.” The other, older gods are summoned to assign honor, glory, and sovereignty to this God. By an act of worship, they are invited to vote for the true God.

This is a song of new orientation, evident in verses 3-9a, which present the cosmic disorientation in which this God has been at work to conquer. It may be that the narrative characterizes a great rainstorm that sweeps off the Mediterranean Sea (v. 3) through Lebanon (vv. 5-6) and on to the southern desert (vv. 7-8). The general picture may be a reference to the global waters of chaos in Gen. 1:2.

So it is the powerful voice of Israel’s God, named repeatedly, which moves decisively to undo the old order and to tame the forces of chaos. There is nothing here of faithfulness or justice; it is raw untamed power.

This God is now stably and comfortably seated on top of the mighty waters, which are no longer a threat. The real king tames chaos. His throne, established atop the flood, shows that the conquest is real and expresses utter contempt for the defeated waters.

When chaos is overwhelmed and driven from the field, a blessing is appropriately given from the newly established throne by the newly recognized king (v. 11). The action of the psalm is to sing into place the new order that overcomes chaos. It is a psalm that speaks about order in a way that overrules all anxiety about life, and the very act of singing the song itself is a practice of that new order.

The new order requires the honoring of God, but it also requires the capacity and power to reorder life. That is cause for singing, on earth, as in heaven.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 142-143.



PRAYER LIST (1/15/23)

- 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 entered comfort care
- 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 Luke, Jessica's family friend, who has entered hospice care
- 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 David, recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- For Rick, Nancy's cousin, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer
- For the friends and family of Beth, John Nicholson's high school friend, who passed away from brain cancer, that they may know the love that surrounds them, especially Carl and their children
- For John Panto, whose extended family is facing challenges at the moment
- 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 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: Morning²

God, you make old things pass away and declare new things to be. As I am renewed in my baptism this morning, help me to confirm my baptismal vows in my life today. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, you stretched out the heavens and spread out the earth, and in that context I give you this small day that I have lived. Now may I sleep, safe and secure in your covenant promise to me that I am your beloved child, in whom you are well pleased. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

In Romans 8:29 Paul wrote that God meant for Jesus to be “the firstborn within a large family.” What does that mean to you? What does your baptism have to do with it?

Daily Awareness Reflection³

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 ...

² 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.

³ 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 +/- |
|----------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| December | \$92,307 | \$90,959 | \$1,348 |

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.

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 29, 11:15am

The Brookline Community Church will be holding its 2023 Annual Meeting in person on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 11:15 am. The meeting will be preceded by our regular worship service at 10:00 am. The primary purpose of this meeting will be a review of church operations in 2022 and a faithful conversation about how our finances and church leadership structure can best be aligned with our ministry and mission moving forward. We will also vote on: a proposed change to Article II of the Constitution, to clarify the status of the assets of the Brookline Community Church in light of our two denominational affiliations; the nominations to our boards; and the 2023 budget.

This discussion and vote are part of the church's ongoing discernment of what God is calling us to do and require a quorum to transact this business.

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) or Rev. Cath (minister@bccnh.org) know.

Take Home Meal on January 20th: Shepherd's Pie

It's going to be delicious (it always is!), so don't miss out! If you want to order or can contribute ingredients, please let Megan (kingmegan7@gmail.com) 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.

Horton Center Schedule for 2023 looks awesome!

Lots of fun theme weeks, from Mysteries on the Mountain to Hogwarts at Horton Center. If you know of anyone who could use some time in a beautiful place, centered on Christian faith, please pass the word. Scholarships are available. www.hortoncenter.org.

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