



Brookline Community Church
January 22, 2023
Rev. Catherine A. Merrill

Prelude: [*Psalm 27 \(A Promise of God's Goodness\)s Goodness*](#) by Hal Leonard
and Shawnee Press Church Choral

Call To Worship, 27:1, 4-9, p. 437
Of David.

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**All: The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:

**All: to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

**All: Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Leader: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

**All: Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!**

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

Children's Message: Who fishes for people?

Hymn: [Two Fishermen by Jack Terrell-Wilkes](#)

We'll sing the chorus with the video during the first three verses, then join in the last verse.

Chorus "Leave all things you have and come and follow me, and come and follow me."

And you, good Christians, one and all who'd follow Jesus' way, come leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day, and listen as he calls your name to come and follow near; for still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.

Chorus x3

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.]

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.

Hymn: [Lord You Have Come to the Lakeshore by First Baptist Church Nashua](#)

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.
O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
My boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and labor.
O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By your side I will seek other seas.

Tú has venido a la orilla,
No has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos,
Tan solo quieres que yo te siga.
Señor, me has mirado a los ojos
Y sonriendo has dicho mi nombre;
En la arena he dejado mi barca;
Junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23, p. 785

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [A New Start by Active Christianity](#)

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:**

God of our salvation,
receive these gifts we offer
and bless them for the work of your kingdom,
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 27:1, 4-9)

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation. I will trust in the Lord.

All: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: That's a good question. What do you think? [Pause] Because fear is real and moves with us through this world.

All: I have asked God for only one thing, to live in God's house forever. Even as I make my home in this world of challenge and conflict, of hypocrisy and happiness.

Leader: I ask God for shelter in the face of trouble, protection and concealment. Even when I know that God is calling me out into the world, to carry my message of God's light and salvation into the dark and abandoned places of the heart.

All: Even as I ask God to hide me, even as I lift my head up and realize I am surrounded by enemies, I can't keep quiet. I'll trust in God and sing songs of thanksgiving to the Lord.

Leader: I will continue to see God's face in the faces of those around me, those who help me, those who fight with me. I will see God's face because I can't bear the thought that God might turn God's face away from me.

All: Keep helping me to build my trust and confidence in you, O God. Keep me from feeling abandoned or forsaken. Because your salvation is what I trust my life to.

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: [Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All \(featuring John Finch\) by The Vigil Project](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (1/22/23)

- 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 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 Mike, Kevin's high school friend, who will be missed
- 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 Keith's daughter, Donna's colleague, who is losing her battle with brain cancer
- For Peter, Rev. Cath's cousin, whose "all clear" on his pancreatic cancer may not be as clear as we hoped
- 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: Morning¹

Lord Jesus, you call me to be a faithful disciple. Enable me to hear your voice above the distractions of this day, to see each challenge as an opportunity for faithful witness, and to offer myself in obedient service in all that I do. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Your face, O Lord, have I sought this day and your beauty have I beheld. I have seen you in the face of the stranger, and beheld your beauty in creation. Thank you, and keep me aware. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What does Jesus mean when he calls his follower to be “fishers of people”?
What must I leave behind to be a faithful disciple of Jesus?

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 +/-
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.

The 2023 Annual Meeting report is [posted on-line](#). A few printed copies will be available at the back of the sanctuary on 1/22 and 1/29.

Potluck Lunch on 1/29 during Annual Meeting

Nothing makes a meeting go easier than a shared meal. Please bring a dish to share with everyone during our Annual Meeting discussions.

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.

Scouting Sunday Returns! February 5th at 10:00am

After a hiatus when Covid was making everything difficult, the Scouts will be joining us for worship on Scouting Sunday, February 5th. It's always a great service, so mark your calendar.

We are looking for folks to bake for coffee hour. We've asked the Scouts and their families to stick around for coffee hour so we can get to know them better.

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