



*Brookline Community Church
January 29, 2023
Rev. Catherine A. Merrill*

Prelude: [Blessed is The United Methodist Church: A Beatitudes song](#)

If you'd like to sing the chorus, it's

Rejoice and be glad. Because your reward is great in heaven. Rejoice and be glad. Because your reward is great in heaven.

Call To Worship, Psalm 15, p. 430

Leader: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

Leader: who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

All: in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

Leader: who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

All: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

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

Children's Message: Dizzy with Happiness

Hymn: [Beatitudes by Kingdom Kidz](#)

Blessed are the poor in spirit. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn. For they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek. For they'll inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst. For righteousness for they will be filled

Chorus

The beatitudes are blessings from above
They fill our lives with gratitude and love
So rejoice be glad and learn each one
These blessings from above

Blessed are the merciful. For they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart. For they shall see God.
Blessed are the peace makers. For they'll be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of their righteousness. For theirs
is the kingdom of heaven

Chorus x2

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: Lead Me, Lord by John Becker

Blessed are the poor in spirit longing
for their Lord

For God's coming kingdom shall be
theirs

Blessed are the sorrowing for they
shall be consoled

And the meek shall come to rule the
world

Chorus

Lead me, Lord Lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way be my truth be my life my
Lord
and lead me, Lord, today

Blessed are the merciful
For mercy shall be theirs
And the pure in heart shall see their
God

Blest are they whose hunger only
holiness can fill
For I say they shall be satisfied

Chorus

Blest are they who through their
lifetimes sow the seeds of peace
All will call them children of the Lord
Blest are you though persecuted in
your holy life
For in heaven, great is your reward

Chorus x2

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12, pp. 785-786

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [Blessed are You by Sarah Hart](#)

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:**

With what shall we come before the Lord this day?

We come with a love of justice and a passion for sharing Christ’s love.

Let us walk in humble gratitude,
offering to God a portion of the gifts that God
freely shares with us,
gifts for the healing of the world.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 15)

Leader: Who is welcomed in God’s neighborhood?

All: Those who are willing to put in the work, in word and deed.

Leader: Those who choose their words and deeds to build stronger relationships, with their friends and neighbors.

All: Those who will stand up to wickedness, who honor those who are earnestly listening for God’s intention, those who keep their promises, even when it costs them something.

Leader: Those who incorporate their financial lives with their religious and moral lives, who put their money where their mouths are.

All: Those who put in the faithful work will never be moved from God’s sacred mountain.

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 City on a Hill by City Harmonic](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 15

Imagine the scene: a group of pilgrims makes its way to the entrance to the temple in ancient Jerusalem and asks a question about who may enter to worship, and the priest gives an answer.

The psalm is both part of a worship service and a lesson. There are ten rules for ethical behavior.

Positive Conditions (v. 2)	Negative Conditions (v. 3)
1. Walking blamelessly	4. No falsity
2. Doing right	5. No evil
3. Speaking truth	6. No reproach
Positive Conditions (v. 4)	Negative Conditions (v. 5)
7. Despise reprobates	9. No usury
8. Swear to do good	10. No bribery

Behind the question about entry is the understanding of the sanctuary/temple as a place of divine presence that is both threat and promise of life, so the question is about who might receive the gift of hospitality from this powerful, life-giving presence.

The central concern is not so much about individual acts as it is about ethical living, especially in terms of human relationships.

For the faithful, entering the holy place brings security, for the place of the divine presence is the secure place of the rock. God and the temple are solid and do not move. The wicked shall be moved (Ps.10:6), and even the faithful fear that they will be moved or shaken (Ps. 13:4), but God and the sanctuary are stable. It is the divine presence that provides protection and stability. The portrait of the holy place in the first psalms is as a place of refuge. God's presence is both demanding and life-giving. The hope of temple worship and its encounter with the life-giving God make possible faithful and vibrant days for ancient Israel as a community.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 81-84.



PRAYER LIST (1/29/23)

- 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 those who are balancing food, gas and housing in tough times
- For David, recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- For Rick, Nancy's cousin, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer
- For the friends and family of Mike, Kevin's high school friend,
- 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 the folks in California who are swinging between drought and flood
- For Kayla, Candy's granddaughter, who will be o.k., but who burned her hand badly enough that she had to go to Boston for treatment
- For Keith and his family, Donna's colleague, whose daughter lost her battle with brain cancer
- For Trish Thompson, member of the church and THM team member, who's having shoulder surgery this week
- For Jen, the Aitken's friend, diagnosed with cancer
- For Hailey, daughter of the Razzabonis' friends, who has started cancer treatment
- For Jessica's three childhood friends who lost their parents this week, that they may find comfort and for all those who have parented us as we grew
- For Luke's family, Jessica's friends, as Luke has moved from in-home hospice to a facility better able to care for him
- 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

Blessed God, I yearn to see your vision of justice, love, and peace made real for me this day. Open my eyes to the way of love that I may see your brilliant light shining into the hidden places of my heart and the darkened corners of the world. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Loving God, you led me in the way of life this day and now call me to the way of rest. I give thanks for your light that illumined my path today. Now, it is night. As you beckon me to enter into holy darkness where I am one with you in your realm of uncreated light, I open to you in peace. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

How do we live in hope of a reality we cannot yet see or, at best, catch only fleeting glimpses? Where in your community's life of prayer and service do you see instances of God's justice, peace, and healing? Then give thanks, and ask God, Where am I being called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly into all blessedness in the ordinary course of my day?

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.

Extra Shepherd's Pies and Surplus Mashed Potatoes

Why cook when you can enjoy homemade food without the work?

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.

Save the Date: March 11, Food Pantry Fundraiser at the Event Center

The Fire Department is putting together an entertaining evening at the Event Center to support the Brookline Food Pantry. Watch this space, but there are rumors of corned beef, cabbage and comedians!

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