



Prelude: [*Come Let us Worship* by Fernando Ortega](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 95, p. 479

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

**All: In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**All: For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

Leader: O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.'
Therefore in my anger I swore,
'They shall not enter my rest.'

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

Reflection on the Call to Worship

Children's Message: A Lovely Home

Hymn: [He Leadeth Me by Darby Hughes](#)

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.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought
O words with heav'nly comfort
fraught
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus

He leadeth me, He leadeth me
By His own hand He leadeth me.
His faithful follower I would be.
For by His hand, He leadeth me

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine
Nor ever murmur, nor repine
Content, whatever lot I see
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me

Chorus

And when my task on earth is done
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee
Since God through Jordan leadeth
me

Chorus x2

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-4, p. 56

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?'

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

Reflection on the Scripture Reading

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:¹

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 or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

Hymn: [Shepherd of Souls Refresh and Bless by Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church](#)

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless
thy chosen pilgrim flock
with manna in the wilderness,
with water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone,
but by thy word of grace,
in strength of which we travel
on to our abiding place.

Be known to us in breaking bread,
and do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.

Lord, sup with us in love divine,
thy Body and thy Blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:5-7, p. 56

So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

¹ Today's Prayer of Joys & Concerns was inspired by Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, the Superintendent Green Mountain District who offered the UMC's Daily Prayer on March 6, 2023.

Announcements

Moment for Mission: Christa Tsechrintzis and Cindi Owning from Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity

Hymn: [Rock of Ages by Chris Rice](#)

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:**

**Gracious and Generous God,
we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance.
Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey,
for the decent homes we return to when the day is done.
Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined.
Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth.
We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received,
in celebration of your greatest gift,
Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

A Prayer of Confession to Send us Back Out into the World

**Leader: God’s love has been poured into our hearts
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Trusting in God’s overflowing grace,
let us confess our sin.**

**All: Lord, you know who we are.
You know everything we have done.
We thirst for things that will never satisfy us.
We commit ourselves to things that will never last.
We worship things that will never bring salvation.

Still, you offer us the gift of living water.
Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life.

Forgive us, O Lord,
and give us this living water,
so that we may never thirst again.**

Leader: This is the good news of God's grace:
Though we were sinners,
Christ died for us.
Though we were enemies of God,
God loved us.
Once we were lost and dead—
now Christ has become our life and salvation.

All: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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: Come to the Water by Fanny Crosby featuring Paul Baloche

Come to the water the rock that flows
A living fountain for every soul
Taste and see
It's rich and sweet

Come to the water and be made
clean
Leave all your burdens beside the
stream
It bids us come
The broken and undone

Oh, drink deep
Drink deep and live
All we need we find in Him
Life abundant, joy complete
Come to the water
Come to the water and live

Come to the water and don't delay
Watch all our sin now
Be washed away
Oh, it makes us new,
Oh, how He makes us new

Oh, drink deep
Drink deep and live
All we need we find in Him
Life abundant, joy complete
Come to the water

Come to the water
Ooh Ooh Ooh

Even now the water's stirring
Dive on in, Dive on in
Even now the Spirit's moving
Dive on in, Dive on in

Even now the water's stirring
Dive on in, Dive on in
Even now the Spirit's moving
Dive on in, Dive on in

Even now the water's stirring
Come on in, Come on in
Even now the Spirit's moving
Come on in, Come on in

Even now the water's stirring
Come on in, Come on in
Even now the Spirit's moving
Come on in, Come on in

Oh, drink deep Drink deep and live
All we need we find in Him Life
abundant, joy complete Come to the
water Come to the water and live

Come to the water

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 95

The first part of the psalm is a summons to praise and to join a holy procession (vv. 1-7a). It is divided into two parts, each part following a standard doxological pattern of summons and reason.

The twice-repeated pattern of summons and reason in verses 1-5 and 6-7a imagines Israel going to worship, giving bodily, visible testimony of adherence to God as the one who is gladly trusted in and relied on. The two reasons given for praise, creation (vv. 1-5) and covenant (vv. 6-7a), are very different, but together constitute the total range of God in our life as creator and redeemer.

The second half of the psalm is commonly reckoned to be a “prophetic address” (vv. 7b-11). In these verses, we have joyously arrived at worship, but then we are addressed by a prophetic voice that warns that a commitment to God is no casual matter.

The obedience to which we are summoned in verse 7b is then contrasted, at some length, with the narrative recall of Israel’s notorious disobedience in the wilderness just after the departure from Egypt (Exod. 17:1-7; Num. 20:1-13).

Without verses 7b-11, verses 1-7a permit worship to be imagined as a benign, agreeable meeting between a generous God and responsive people. With those verses, worship becomes sober and urgent because everything is at stake in hearing God’s radical call to trust and obedience. We may still be dazzled about creation and covenant, but we now know that the creator-redeemer God calls Israel – and the church – from benign autonomy to a deep trust. Such trust becomes the prerequisite to entering into God’s good, promised future.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 410-413.



PRAYER LIST (3/12/23)

- Friends & family of Jesse Delrossi, Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin, Scott Higgins, Ed Krom, Ron Whitebred, Chris Crowder, Morris Nicholson, Eddy Razzaboni, Flora Kenyon.
- 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 those who are balancing food, gas and housing in tough times
- For Rick, Nancy's cousin, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer
- For Jen, the Aitken's friend, diagnosed with cancer
- For Hailey, daughter of the Razzabonis' friends, who has started cancer treatment
- For Jessica's relative, who's been diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma, may they find the right combination of care quickly
- For Peter, Rev. Cath's cousin, whose pancreatic cancer has shown up in his liver
- For the friends and family of Polly, John Panto's sister, who passed away after a long illness
- For the Avramovs, traveling to Prague later in the week, may it all go smoothly
- For Doris, Marjorie's 98 year-old aunt, who's been diagnosed with Covid
- For all those struggling to start a family
- For Harrison and his grandparents, a good friend, who is in week 10 of Covid; may they recover soon
- For the rapid recover of a friend's newborn, in for retinal surgery this week at Boston Children's Hospital
- For Dennis Miller, Susan & Russell's relative in CA, who is seeking a diagnosis and cure for a serious illness
- For the friends and family of Polly, John Panto's sister, who passed away after a long illness
- For Tristan's family, the neighbor who murdered their daughter will be sentenced this week, bringing a form of closure to a loss that will never end
- For Kim, Amy's friend, who is facing health problems
- For Kayla's family, Candy's colleague, who welcomed a new baby. When Kayla's husband returned from paternity leave, he learned that he is being laid off
- 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, my maker, hold me this day, with the same hand that shapes the mountains, with the same hand that cradles the deep. Keep my heart soft and supple, make my faith strong and firm. Renew me, re-form me, re-create me into the image of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

We come to you now, O Lord, weary from the day's journey, thirsty for rest, hungry for peace. Renew us in your love and restore us by your grace, until we find our rest at last by the river of the water of life. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

As you read John 4:5–42, think about the meaning of water—its symbolic qualities, its presence in nature, and its use in human life. How is Jesus like water? What are the things that are most necessary in your life? Where do you get them? Contribute to or participate in a service project that provides clean water (or some other necessity of life) to people in need. As you do so, make a commitment to pray for all the providers and recipients of this service.

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.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
February	\$11,682	\$17,386	(\$5,704)

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.

Thanks to everyone who supported Outreach's recent efforts

We're very grateful for everyone who contributed to our recent drive to support Marguerite's Place and the Salvation Army Food Pantry. A small donation can make such a big difference in someone's life.

Christian Education Coming up on March 26, 8:30-9:30am

We'll be continuing our Christian Education program (for both kids and adults) on March 26. We'll be Walking through Holy Week with a human sized board game in the Social Hall. Coming up: May 7, Jun. 4.

March 11, Senior Luncheon: Corned Beef & Cabbage

Faith and begorrah, it's time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the seniors in the community.

March 11, Food Pantry Fundraiser at the Event Center

The Fire Department is working on an evening fundraiser at the Event Center to support the Brookline Food Pantry. There are rumors of corned beef and cabbage and special entertainment!

March 12, Daylight Savings Begins!

Make sure to reset your clock, or you'll show up in time for the blessing not the Call to Worship!

Brookline Planning Board has published a Voter's Guide

[Get more information](#) on the proposed changes to the Zoning and Land Use ordinances ahead of voting on March 14 and Town Meeting on March 15.

Lenten Discernment Sessions, March 19 & April 2

Join Rev. Cath after coffee hour in walking through a structured, 90 minute discernment process to see where the Holy Spirit is leading you. You'll develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life. You'll also leave with a tool kit for working through the challenges of

subtle nudges or deep silences from God. There will be some hands on exercises to do between sessions.

Take Home Meal, March 24, Supporting Habitat for Humanity

We're supporting Habitat for Humanity with March's THM. If you would like to provide an "add on," something we can sell in addition to the meals, please let Megan (kingmegan7@gmail.com) know.

The Church has 12 Covid Test Kits, Take & Replace!

NH made Covid supplies available to certain non-profits. We took advantage of the program to snag 12 Covid test kits. If they become hard to find again, feel free to grab one (Candy secretary@bccnh.org can help) and replace it later.

Cookies/Cakes for Coffee Hour

We like to have treats available during coffee hour, so if you're cooking at home and would make a bit extra for the church, we'd love to freeze them and share the love later.

His Mansion is Hiring a Director of Operations for their 320 acre campus

The Director of Operations leads a team who runs the day-to-day operations of a 320-acre campus and property. This includes building maintenance, work crews, property care, and farming. Housing and a hybrid compensation package may be available. See Rev. Cath (minister@bccnh.org) for more details.

Update to the Senior Citizen Active Walking Program

A nice addition to the Winter Walking Program, offered to Brookline residents age 70+ at The Hampshire Dome in Milford by NH Wellpoint Foundation, is LUNCH!! Beginning February 21st, Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County is proud to sponsor free lunches for participants of the Hampshire Dome Winter Walking Program. Lunch is available on Tuesdays 11:30AM -12:30PM. Please see [the flyer](#) for more details.

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