

Brookline Community Church
March 19, 2023



Anthem: *Rest* by Matt Maher

Call To Worship

Leader: What are we longing for?

All: Nothing, for the LORD is our Shepherd.

Leader: Where are the green pastures and the still waters we need?

All: Wherever we lie down having been led by the LORD.

Leader: Where shall we dwell all the days of our lives?

All: In the house of the LORD, from which come goodness and mercy.

***Hymn: #356 “*All Creatures of Our God and King*”**

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 together the 23rd Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

[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.]

Reflection on the Shepherd

*Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision* (from the Pilgrim Hymnal)

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Be Thou My Vision

Ancient Irish

Tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935

SLANE 10.10.9.10.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art.
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine in - her - it - ance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
High King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

CONSECRATION

Announcements

Reflection on the Protector, Psalm 23:4-5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: With the words of Psalm 23, I am saying that God provides me with everything I need

All: but do I really believe that? [Silence]

Leader: If God is restoring my soul,

All: why do I feel so tired, so exhausted, so "run thin," so overwhelmed? [Silence]

Leader: Am I really living my life on the right path in every aspect of my life?

All: Would I be comfortable and even proud to have God along with me everywhere I go? [Silence]

Leader: If God is always with me, with tools to defend and guide me,

All: Why am I always looking elsewhere for comfort and protection? Why do I have so many fears? [Silence]

Leader: If I really believed that God was beside me, filling my cup and rubbing oil in my wounds,

All: What my life would look like? How I would view others, including my enemies? [Silence]

Leader: If I cannot sense the goodness and mercy that follow me, like I can sense the fear,

All: Am I confident that God goes with me? Am I confident that I will live with God forever? [Silence]

Leader: The words are sure and true: the LORD is our Shepherd and provides for us everything we need. Know that God is with you now, forgiving you, rejoicing to be in your presence and willing to transform you by the power of the Holy Spirit into true and full disciples of Jesus, the Crucified and Resurrected One.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem: "Your Hands"

I have unanswered prayers
I have trouble I wish wasn't there
And I have asked a thousand ways
That you would take my pain away
You would take my pain away

I am trying to understand
How to walk this weary land
Make straight the paths that crooked lie
Oh Lord, before these feet of mine
Oh Lord, before these feet of mine

When my world is shaking, heaven stands
When my heart is breaking
I never leave your hands

When you walked upon the earth
You healed the broken, lost and hurt
I know you hate to see me cry
One day you will set all things right
Yeah, one day you will set all things right

When my world is shaking, heaven stands
When my heart is breaking
I never leave your hands

Your hands that shaped the world
Are holding me
They hold me still
Your hands that shaped the world
Are holding me
They hold me still

When my world is shaking, heaven stands
When my heart is breaking
I never leave you

When my world is shaking, heaven stands
When my heart is breaking
I never leave
I never leave your hands

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:**

**In gratitude, O God, we come to your table,
into your presence, into your house.**

**Sharing what we have so abundantly received,
we bring now our tithes and offerings to God,
with gladness and gratitude.**

**For all that you have done for us,
Our lives overflow with the goodness of God,
So we offer our humble thanks along with these humble gifts.**

Reflection on the One We Come Home To, Psalm 23:6

***Hymn: *Rest* by Matt Maher**

Oh my Lord,
You are my shepherd and I shall not want
Oh my Lord,
Beside still waters You repair my heart
I trust in You, oh I trust in You

Even though I walk through the valley of death
You restore my soul and You give me rest
Oh the memories of Your faithfulness
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You give me rest

Oh my Lord,
You prepare a table for You and me
Oh my Lord,
I the middle of a fight with my enemies
I trust in You, Oh I trust in You

Even though I walk through the valley of death
You restore my soul and You give me rest
Oh the memories of Your faithfulness
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You give me rest

I will fear no evil for You're here with me
Your goodness and Your love, they will never leave
Just a closer walk with Thee, just a closer walk
Just a closer walk with Thee, just a closer walk

Even though I walk through the valley of death
You restore my soul and You give me rest
Oh the memories of Your faithfulness
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You restore my soul and You give me rest
You give me rest, You give me rest
You give me rest

***Benediction**

[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."](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 23

This is the psalm we say to remember. We recite it together in funerals. Much of the power of this psalm comes from the contexts we remember when we recite it. And yet we recite it to remember because its imagery evokes grace, hope and abundance. Still that grace, hope and abundance are encountered in the real world, where we walk through Death Valley, where our enemies have taken our place at the table.

Our good shepherd has given all that is needed – good food, food water, good paths. Notice that all the verbs of action are for the shepherd. The sheep have no verbs. The sheep wait and enjoy the gifts. Because the shepherd is generous, the sheep live a safe, trust-filled life, surrounded by generosity. That is the grace that is offered.

We need to let ourselves be caught and embraced in love, like that of a sheep with safe pasture, like a traveler with rich and unexpected food. Our life is not willed by God to be an endless anxiety. It is meant to be an embrace by God. That’s the hope, that we figure out how to let ourselves be caught.

What God gives will be enough for me. This is a statement of enormous confidence in the generosity of God, the one who knows what we need and gives well beyond all that we ask or think. “I shall not want,” is a decision made against the greed and lust and satiation and aggressive ambition of a consumer society. I will refocus my desire. I will not entertain all those other distractions that keep me busy and make me selfish and cause me not to notice my neighbor.

I will remember.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Threat of Life: Sermons on Pain, Power, and Weakness*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1996), 92-93.



PRAYER LIST (3/19/23)

- 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, recovering from their trip to Prague
- 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 the Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity, that they may have the resources they need
- For the friends and family of Donna's Aunt Joan, who passed away last week
- For Sanjay's Dad, having cataract surgery, so he can continue doing 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

Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

With the night, Good Lord, comes rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all others have helped me to see, I give you thanks. For those things that I did not notice: signs of beauty and kindness, evidences of your grace, I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. Then God chooses David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be Israel's next king. We know that as he grew and as life became very challenging, King David's heart was not pure. He was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness—and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? What do you think God loves when God looks upon your own heart?

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.

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.

The Food Pantry is looking for a freezer

If you have a freezer that's looking for a new home, let Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com) know. She can put you in touch with the right people.

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.

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.

Palm Sunday, April 2, New members join the church

We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, celebrated by the crowds. We will welcome new members to the church. And we begin to reflect on the dark betrayal of Jesus which leads to the Cross. If you are interested in joining the church, please let Rev. Cath (minister@bccnh.org) know.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Remember Jesus' Last Supper

We remember Jesus' Last Supper and the blessing he promised to his disciples. This year we are hosting the 7:00pm joint service with the Mason Congregational

Church. At 6:00pm, we'll hold a potluck soup and bread supper in the Social Hall. All are welcome to both or either.

Good Friday Vigil, April 7

From 3:00 to 9:00pm, the church is open for quiet reflection on Jesus' death at human hands. Many find this time of deep quiet profoundly renewing.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 9, 6:00am

As the sunrise breaks on Musket Mountain and the Andres Institute, we welcome the light and the promise of Jesus' resurrection.

Easter Sunday Service, April 9, 10:00am

We celebrate the greatest of Good News – Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

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