



Brookline Community Church

March 26, 2023

Prelude: [Easter is Coming by Luther Seminary](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 130, p. 500

A Song of Ascents.

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!

**All: Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

Leader: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

**All: But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

Leader: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

**All: my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,**

Leader: more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

**All: It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

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

Children's Message: Crying Together

Hymn: [When Jesus Wept by Voices United 146](#)

When Jesus wept,
the falling tear
in mercy flowed
beyond all bound;
when Jesus groaned,
a trembling fear
seized all the guilty world around.

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 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: [Psalm 130 by Dan Yoon](#)

Scripture Reading: John 11:1-45, pp. 873-874

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked

upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: Jesus Loves Me, He is Strong by Dave Whitcroft

Jesus loves me this I know
For the bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong

Jesus loves me He who died
Heaven's gates to open wide
He will wash away my sin
Let His little child come in

Yes! Jesus loves me
Yes! Jesus loves me
Yes! Jesus loves me
The bible tells me so

Jesus loves me He will stay
Close beside me all the way
Then His little child will take
Up to heaven, for His dear sake

Yes! Jesus loves me
Yes! Jesus loves me
Yes! Jesus loves me
The bible tells me so

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:**

**Without the breath of God,
we are dry bones,
and without the Word of God,
we are dust.
With gratitude,
let us offer our lives
to the Lord of all life.**

Announcements

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

Leader: To set the mind on the flesh is death
but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
Trusting in the Spirit of God,
let us confess our sin.

**All: O Lord, if you held our sin against us,
who could live, who could stand?
We seem to have more faith in death
than hope in your promise of life.
We seek peace through war
and find security in weapons.
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,
and pursue wealth by making others poor.
And even so, you love us;
still there is forgiveness with you!
Therefore we worship you;
for you alone, O Lord,
can save us from death
and redeem us from our sin.**

Leader: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
If Jesus Christ dwells in you,
the Spirit of God will be your life
and the grace of God will be your righteousness.
And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you,
then God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
will also give life to your mortal bodies.

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:
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: What a Friend by Matt Maher

Everybody has trials
And temptations.
Everybody knows heart break
Isolation
But we can lay our burdens down
Lay our burdens down

(chorus)

What a friend we have in Jesus
East to west my sins are gone.
I see grace on every horizon
And forever and ever
His heart is my home

Everybody has fears
Everybody got worries
Everybody knows sorrow
Devastation
But we can lay our burdens down
Lay our burdens down

Chorus

No more betrayal
For He is faithful
He fills me up and
my cup runneth over
No more betrayal For He is faithful
How He has proven it over and over
No more betrayal
For He is faithful
He fills me up and
my cup runneth over
No more betrayal
For He is faithful
How He has proven it
over and over

Chorus x2

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 130

This prayer is an act of inordinate boldness. In one sweeping rhetorical move it proposes to make a link between the ruler of reality enthroned and the most extreme, remote circumstance of human need. This God is palpable, available – a staggering comment both about God and about the speaker.

In verses 3-4, the speaker acknowledges he is unqualified to approach the throne. That is not contested, but that disqualification is overridden by the statement of verse 4: there is forgiveness with God, from which everything else flows. It is not “grounded” or reasoned or explained. It is the first fact of new life, of the new age. This is the center of the entire prayer. It is the ground for such bold prayer. There is in this One the readiness and capacity to cancel the iniquity and to begin again.

The surprise of that conviction is what follows. One might have expected things in reverse sequence. The move comes the other way; the gift goes before the obedience.

The terms *wait* and *hope* are rough synonyms. The waiting-hoping is like a watchman at night, waiting early and expectantly for the relief that comes with daybreak. Fear of God means to have confidence that things as they are (in the depth), are not as they will be. Life will be transformed. Forgiveness leads to liberation from life as it is presently organized.

The last two verses of the psalm (vv. 7-8) generalize the new situation from a speaker in the depth to the whole community. That single speaker might be any one in the depth who risks enough to cry. The news is that the cry is answered by forgiveness, which sets a new life in motion.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 104-106.



PRAYER LIST (3/26/23)

- 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, Polly Foley.
- 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 all those struggling to start a family
- 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

O God, I know that you are the Lord, for you gave me my life, and caused me to rise this day. Put your Spirit within me, and let my words and actions help others to know that you are my Lord and my God. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

My soul waits for you, O Lord, more than those who watch for morning, more than those who watch for evening. Help me to sleep this night in peace, trusting that you will awaken me; through Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Why did Jesus weep in John 11:35? Was it out of compassion for Mary and Martha? Out of love for his friend Lazarus? Out of frustration with the people's lack of understanding or faith? Think about someone in your life who is grieving. Find a way to extend to that person the grace and peace of Christ.

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.

	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.

Scams abounding after bank collapses

There are people running scams looking to get your banking details claiming to be from the agencies charged with resolving the bank collapses. Like any good scam, they sound credible and don't want to give you a minute to think. What are people like?

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.

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.

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.

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