



Prelude: [\*The Lord is my Shepherd\* by Keith Green](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 23, King James Version**

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;

**All: I shall not want.**

Leader: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

**All: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

Leader: He restoreth my soul:

**All: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

Leader: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

**All: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Leader: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

**All: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

**All: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

### **Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47, p. 886**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **Reflection on the Scripture, Part 1**

#### **Hymn: [Living Shepherd of Thy Sheep](#)**

The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
He leads me beside the still waters  
He restore'th my soul And guides my path in righteousness  
For His name's sake. Surely goodness and loving kindness  
Shall follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever and ever and ever  
Though I walk through the valley Of the shadow of death  
I will not fear, Thou art with me. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou prepar'est a table Before me in the presence of my enemies.  
Thou anoint'est my head with oil My cup's overflowing  
Surely goodness and loving kindness  
Shall follow me all the days of my life And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever and ever and ever. The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want

*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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

**Hymn: Psalm 23 The Lord's My Shepherd by New Scottish Hymns**

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want  
He makes me down to lie In pastures green:  
He leadeth me the quiet waters by

My soul He doth restore again and me to walk doth make  
Withing the paths of righteousness ev'n for His own name's sake

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale  
Yet will I fear no ill For Thou art with me,  
and Thy rod and staff, my comfort still

My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes  
My head Thou doest with oil anoint  
And my cup overflows

Goodness and mercy all my life  
Shall surely follow me And in God's house for evermore  
My dwelling-place shall be

**Reflection on the Scripture, Part 2:**

**Hymn: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need by Centered Worship**

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His Name;  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed  
Beside the living stream.

He brings my wand'ring spirit back  
When I forsake His ways, And leads me, for  
His mercies' sake, In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,  
Thy presence is my stay; One word of  
Thy supporting breath Drives all my fears away

Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,  
Doth still my table spread; My cup with  
blessings overflows; Thine oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God Attend me all my days;  
O may Thy house be my abode,  
And all my work be praise!

There would I find a settled rest  
While others go and come; No more a stranger  
nor a guest, But like a child at home.

**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:**

**Our God has prepared a table before us  
and our cup overflows.**

**So let us give generously from our common wealth,  
as our way of praising God and giving to those in need.**

**Announcements**

**Reflection on the Scripture, Part 3:**

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World, Psalm 23, from *The Message***

Leader: God, my shepherd!  
I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.

**All: True to your word,  
you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.**

Leader: Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid  
when you walk at my side.

**All: Your trusty shepherd's crook  
makes me feel secure.**

Leader: You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.

**All: Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.  
I'm back home in the house of God  
for the rest of my life.**

[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: [The Lord is My Shepherd by Paul Zach](#)**

*Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.*

Notes:

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### 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, good 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 (4/30/23)

- 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 been declared cancer free!
- For Jessica's relative, who's been diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma, may they find the right combination of care quickly
- For friends and family of Peter Merrill, Rev. Cath's cousin, who died of pancreatic cancer surrounded by his family
- For the friends and family of Jean Reinhold, Russell's brother's mother-in-law
- For Alex, Marjorie's friend, whose diagnosis at the Mayo Clinic means more chemotherapy to hopefully get a better handle on the cancer.
- For Kaye, Kym's sister, who has been in the hospital for a month, struggling to get on a stable path back to going home.
- For Dave Joki and Dave Flannery, both members of the Brookline Fire Department, both fighting cancer
- For Eric, Rena's high school friend's son, who is having serious side effects from his cancer treatment
- For those with and who struggle daily with mental health issues, especially anxiety and depression
- 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: Morning<sup>1</sup>**

Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to watch for your signs and wonders in the world today, and fill my heart with gladness and generosity, that I may generate good will wherever I go. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Thank you, God, for shepherding me through this day. As I lie down to sleep this night help me to imagine green pastures and still waters, and to remember all the ways you have set a table before me and filled my cup to overflowing. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Acts 2:42–47 describes what life was like in the early church. How do these words guide today's church?

### **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>2</sup>**

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 ...

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 +/-
March	\$16,019	\$26,489	(\$10,470)

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.

### Winter Clothing Drive in April

As you pack your winter gear away, consider donating Coats, Snowpants, and Boots that your family can no longer use for a community winter gear exchange in October 2023. Items must be laundered, stain and tear free. Adult and Child sizes are welcome. [More information on the town website.](#)

### 2023 Brookline Town Clean-Up Week April 22-30

Join the Brookline Conservation Commission this year for the 26th annual Brookline Town Clean-Up Week. Residents are invited to sign up and clean up local roads during school vacation week. Come out and help make Brookline shine! [More information on the town website.](#)

### Senior Luncheon on May 6, 11:30am

Pasta salad, sandwiches and great company. We have a very flexible definition of "senior" so come and add to the company!

### Scouts Spaghetti Supper, May 13

Nothing tastes better than a spaghetti supper to support Scouting in the community. Plus there's no clean up!

### Dinner to Support Dave Joki, May 19 at the Event Center

Roast beef dinner, comedian/hypnotist, meat raffle, raffle baskets, so much goodness going to support fire fighter Dave Joki as he fights cancer! Tickets available to enjoy the evening. Contact Peter B ([pdrbret@charter.net](mailto:pdrbret@charter.net)) for details.

### Christian Education Coming up on May 7, 8:30-9:30am

We'll be continuing our Christian Education program (for both kids and adults) on May 7. Coming up: Jun. 4.

### Annual Meeting of the Hillsborough UCC on May 7, 2:00-5:00pm

The meeting will be held in person at the Hollis Congregational Church and on-line on Zoom. Please let Rev. Cath know if you would like to attend and she'll get you all the details.



## **B – S.A.F.E.: Brookline - Special Assistance for Emergencies**

If you have special accommodation needs or require special assistance during a possible or actual emergency within the town, such as an extended power outage or undrivable road conditions, the information would be helpful to local responders. This could include information on complicated medical condition or medical equipment, communication challenges such as hearing loss or inability to speak, etc. [The form](#) is completely voluntary. It should be returned to the Ambulance chief.

## **Critical Home Repair Program from Habitat for Humanity**

The program provides home repairs to low to moderate income homeowners who are struggling to maintain their homes due to age, disability or family circumstances. The program focuses on health, life and safety code issues. It allows Habitat for Humanity to partner with families to help them reclaim their homes with pride, dignity, and in safety without being disrupted by the uncertainty, trauma and expense of moving. [More information and an application](#) are available on Habitat's website.

## **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](mailto: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](http://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