



Prelude

Call To Worship, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, pp. 483-484

Leader: O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**All: Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**

**There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

Leader: These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

**All: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

**All: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.**

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All: Praise the LORD!

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

Scripture Reading: Numbers 11:24-30, p. 114

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, 'My lord Moses, stop them!' But Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!' And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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

Reflection on the Meaning of Prophecy

Hymn: #297 *Spirit of the Living God*

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:¹

¹ Today's Prayer of Joys and Concerns, Dedication of the Gifts We've Been Given and Benediction were inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Some Pentecost 2020 prayers" Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted May 22, 2020, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/05/22/some-pentecost-2020-prayers/> (accessed May 19, 2023).

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.]

Reflection on the Connections of the Future of Work for Brookline in 2070

Hymn: #304 *Come Down, O Love Divine*

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:**

**God, on this Pentecost –
remind us of the fruit of the Spirit,
for we are trying to put forth
the buds of the church.**

**Use these gifts to
Lift us with the wings of the Spirit,
for we must rise above sorrow
on bent feathers and hope.**

**Confuse us
with how many languages
the Spirit speaks,
so we may listen to our neighbors.
Amen.**

Reflection on the Connections of the Future of Work for This Church

Hymn: #43 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 104:24-34, 35b)

Leader: Loving God, you were the one who created this world, not me, even if I want it to run differently a lot of the time.

All: Even in the chaos, you are bringing new things into being. Even the big scary things of nightmare spin around like kids playing on your lawn and obey your rules.

Leader: You feed all of us, kids, nightmares, lawns; you feed our bodies and souls. You make sure that all of us have what we need, including other people to make life here a little easier.

All: When you turn away, we return to the dust we are. When you send your Spirit to us, we are renewed like the rivers with spring melt water.

Leader: When we look at the volcanos and live through the earthquakes, when we struggle with the hand we've been dealt, may we lift our eyes up and see you shining there. May we rejoice in what your hands have made.

All: I will sing praises to God as long as I'm breathing. I will put my whole self into it, because that's what God gave me, my whole self.

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All: Praise the LORD!

[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

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 104

Psalm 104 is an extended celebration of the goodness and awesome character of creation. It is a hymn about creation rather than the Creator. It is a poem celebrating the order, symmetry, and majesty of creation.

That grand and almost overwhelming recital ends in verse 23. The end point in the recital is appropriately that people function as workers in God's creation. That is our lot in life. It is not a curse or a special burden.

The remainder of the psalm includes three telling conclusions drawn from reflection on God's ordered world:

- a) God is known to be confident, serene, and at ease. Conventionally the sea is an expression of dread and intense threat. Here the sea is God's plaything; what some think is evil is seen as responsive to God and, in God's way, more tame than we suspected.
- b) In verses 27-30, the whole world is daily dependent on God's sustenance, God's face, God's presence, God's breath. The world is impressive and to be celebrated. But it has no independent existence. On its own, it has no possibility of survival or well-being. That is a daily gift.
- c) That awareness leads the speaker in verses 31-34 to be moved to spontaneous wonder, gratitude, and praise. The psalm translates these very large claims to a personal delight in God's goodness.

Even this psalm cannot resist the conclusion of verse 35. The world is a free gift from God, but with it comes an expectation and a cost. Every generation learns what the first humans in the garden learned (Genesis 2-3). The nourishing Lord has not abdicated sovereignty. In this kingdom of delight, divine will must indeed be honored. This verse suggests the psalm does not express disinterested faith, but guards a faithful social life.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 31-33.



PRAYER LIST (5/25/23)

- Friends & family of Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin, Scott Higgins, Ed Krom, Ron Whitebred, Chris Crowder, Morris Nicholson, Eddy Razzaboni, Flora Kenyon, Jeff MacMartin, Polly Foley, Ken Perrin.
- 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, who has no detectable colon cancer
- For Jessica's relative, who's been diagnosed with a rare form of lymphoma, may they find the right combination of care quickly
- 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 is still 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 Paul, John's friend, who's in a tough fight with cancer.
- For Renee, Donna's nephew's wife, going through cancer treatment, including tumor surgery.
- For Brandon, Jill & Kevin's friend, admitted to Tufts Medical Center.
- For Kim, Amy's friend, who is in the hospital
- For Nathan Bairstow, a student at Hollis Brookline High School who passed away recently
- For Shawn, Keri Haight's friend, who's in MGH facing some significant medical challenges
- 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: Morning²

Spirit of God, source of life,
refresh my spirit,
reshape my desire,
and re-create my heart,
that I may show forth your enduring glory; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Spirit of God, you sustained me during the work of day; sustain me as I rest this night. Let my evening meditations be pleasing to you, that I may rise in the morning to rejoice in your goodness. Awake or asleep, I will sing your praise while I have being; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What prophetic word for the community has God given to you? In what ways do you struggle with conflicts between your way of life and the prophetic word God would have you proclaim to others? How are the acts of God manifest in your life and witness?

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 +/- |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| April | \$40,847 | \$35,143 | \$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.

Plenty of Chicken Florentines Left

If you forgot to order yours, never fear! There were a few extras. Pick them up next time your at the church.

Memorial Day Weekend Worship Change: Thurs. May 25, 7:00pm

Like last year, we'll worship together on Thursday, May 25 at 7:00pm celebrating Pentecost. Then we won't meet again until Sunday, June 4th.

Rev. Cath on vacation May 26 – June 4

Rev. Cath will be taking vacation from May 26 to June 4. The Deacons will be leading worship on June 4. If you need Rev. Cath during that week, contact Candy (secretary@bccnh.org, 603-801-5918) or Jill (jgoods4@gmail.com, 973-713-7832) and they'll get you to the correct person.

Brookline Family Night at Holman Stadium to see Semi-Pro Baseball

Join the Brookline PTO for Family Night with the Nashua Silver Knights on Friday, June 2 at 6 PM! Discount Tickets - Fireworks - Community! All Brookline residents are welcome to attend! [For more information click here.](#)

Spring Cleanup at the Church, June 3, 8:30am:

Come help Susan Haight and David Drake get the exterior grounds and gardens spiffed up for the spring. We'll be getting rid of last year's leaves and putting down a fresh layer of mulch.

Barbeque Take Home Meal, SATURDAY, June 10th

Ribs with 2 or 4 sides. So, so, so good. While they may not freeze, they'll eat like you've gone to heaven. Let Megan (kingmegan7@gmail.com) know if you're interested.

2023 Parking Passes are available for the Grove

You'll need a parking pass to park for our Lake worship services in June, July & August. For membership details and hours when you can get that taken care of, [see the town website](#). If you aren't a Brookline resident, contact Candy (secretary@bccnh.org, 603-801-5918) and she'll explain the system.

Meals on Wheels Dine Out Club for folks over 60

The Dine Out Club is a donation-based meal program for people over the age of 60, with a suggested donation of \$4.00 per meal.* Upon signing up, you will receive a Dine Out Club card which can be used for meals from a specially curated menu at a restaurant partner location. [More details are available here](#).

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, 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 can help) and replace it 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