



*Brookline Community Church*  
*June 25, 2023*  
*Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister*

Photo by [Benjamin Lehman](#)

[Prelude: Jesus Lives and So Shall I by Greg Scheer](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17**

Leader: Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.

**All: You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all day long.**

**Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Leader: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.

**All: All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.**

Leader: For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.

**All: Turn to me and be gracious to me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
save the child of your serving-maid.**

Leader: Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,

**All: because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

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

**Children's Message: *Can we take a picture of faith?***

Hymn: [Let's Praise the Lord by LifeKids](#)

Call	Response
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah	Let's praise the Lord
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah	Let's praise the Lord,
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	

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<sup>1</sup>:**

**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.]

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<sup>1</sup> Today's Prayer of Joys and Concerns inspired by Norman Thombs, Director of Camp Mechuwana who offered the UMC's Daily Prayer on May 2, 2023.

### Hymn: To Live is Christ by Joe Henson

In ev'ry hardship that we  
face  
Christ's faithful servants must  
embrace  
A truth at times misunderstood:  
Life is not fair, but God is good!  
  
When pain and loss unsettle life  
when unity is torn by strife  
when bitter biting tempests blow  
and sorrows wreck the peace we  
know  
  
When all else fails, this truth remains:  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.  
  
Count all as loss save knowing Christ  
our burden-bearing sacrifice  
His merit is our only  
plea  
Both now and through eternity

Take up the cross that bears His  
name:  
To live is Christ; to die is  
gain.  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.  
  
Embrace the hope that makes us  
strong  
And boldly sing this pilgrim  
song  
Rejoice! For Christ our risen King  
Has conquered death and crushed  
its sting  
  
Join saints above in this refrain:  
To live is Christ; to die is gain.  
To live is Christ; to die is  
gain.  
To live is Christ; to die is gain

### **Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1b-11**

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

## Reflection on the Scripture:

### Hymn: *To Live is Christ by the Sidewalk Prophets*

If I rise, let me rise on you  
Not on all my successes  
My esteem or my pursuits  
If I lose, let me lose my life  
Cause if I belong to Jesus  
The flesh is crucified

For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
to die is gain.

If I grow, let me grow in  
you  
Wilt the seeds of wanting more  
Ripping pride out by the  
roots  
And if I'm still, let me hear you speak  
Not the tone of my transgressions  
But the song of the redeemed

For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
to die is gain

For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
to die is gain

My great desire is to be with you  
But this is the place you chose for  
me

This is the place you chose for  
me

To lift my cross and give everything  
This is the time you gave to me  
This is the time you gave to me

For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
For me to live is Christ  
to die is gain

I'll never be the same  
I'll never be the same  
For me to live is Christ  
to die is gain.

## 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:**

**Christ knows every breath we take:  
each one is a gift from the Spirit.**

**God watches over, protects, and provides for us.**

**We present our offerings of thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the triune God.**

## Announcements

### **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17)**

Leader: Everywhere I turn, it's chaos. I've built my life around my faith in the sacred Thou, and everything is going off the rails. I need Your help and, frankly, I'm out of options

**All: Reach out to me, not in theory, but here, today. Smooth my path, straighten my way, calm the waves, whatever the right image is. But hear my voice, because I'm pretty sure You're the only one really listening.**

Leader: Even in the middle of this whirlpool of hurt and damage, You forgive my missteps that have brought me here, and you offer steadfast love to everyone who calls out to you. So I'm calling.

**All: You made the world and the creatures on it and the nations in it, you made everything. And anything that great should be revered. And you probably shouldn't have to bother with something as trivial as little me.**

Leader: But you alone are God. And that means you care about the great things and the trivial things.

**All: So, yeah, here, today, give me some strength, and help pull me back together, the person least entitled to ask the creator of the world for help.**

Leader: Just give me a sign. And please, make sure the ones who are making me so miserable see it too. And are ashamed. Because they've earned it.

**All: Help me and comfort me. Because I need both. I need you, O God of great and trivial things.**

[\*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: Dead to Sin, Alive in Him by Sacred City Music**

Oh my flesh has failed me once  
again  
on my knees to you, Lord, I bend  
Only you can satisfy my soul  
in my heart would you make your  
home  
All the times I've tried before and  
failed  
I can see it now that those were the  
nails  
What held you there upon your cross  
Lord you died to pay my cost  
Dead to sin, alive in Him  
Have mercy on me, oh, my God  
Blot out my sin and make me clean  
again  
Against you I committed all these  
things  
the contrived heart your grace ever  
brings  
All the times I've tried before and  
failed  
I can see it now that those were the  
nails  
What held you there upon your cross  
Lord you died to pay my cost  
Dead to sin, alive in Him  
Dead to sin, alive in Him

You gave your life to purchase  
mine  
Now in you this love I find  
Grace amazing takes me home  
to the arms of the one I love  
You gave your life to purchase mine  
now in you this love I  
find  
Grace amazing takes me home  
to the arms of the one I love  
And all the times I've tried before  
and failed  
I can see it now that those were the  
nails  
What held you there upon your cross  
Lord you died to pay my  
cost  
Dead to sin, alive in Him  
All the times I've tried before and  
failed  
I can see it now that those were the  
nails  
What held you there upon your cross  
Lord you died to pay my  
cost  
Dead to sin, alive in Him  
Dead to sin, alive in Him  
Dead to sin, alive in Him

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

## Notes:

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### Psalm 86

Psalm 86 is a typical psalm of complaint, except that it offers intriguing complexities in its rhetorical development. Verses 1-7 feature primarily a series of petitions, where the psalmist seeks refuge, protection, and rescue, for the psalmist is completely without resources.

At the conclusion of the psalm, in verses 16-17, there is another series of petitions that again seek rescue. The hope of the petitioner is to shame his adversaries. These adversaries have been identified in verse 14 as “ruffians” and “insolent.” They are marked by their general dismissal of God, a complete contrast to the speaker.

The complexity of this psalm is that in the middle portion of the psalm, verses 8-15 (anticipated in verses 2b and 5), we find a series of strong “you” statements addressed directly to God. These statements are rather doxologies that celebrate and enhance God. This psalm features no less than six independent pronouns “you” (*attah*) that state, apart from the verb, a strong appeal to God who is directly addressed.

Finally, in verse 17, this one who is steadfast, incomparable, and “God alone” is the God of all comfort, who will answer the prayer and act on behalf of the petitioner. Thus, all of the great claims made for God now come down to the specificity of action for this lowly servant in need. Even this “child of a servant girl” does not doubt that the incomparable God can and will be attentive to this voice of need, hope, and faith.

It is no wonder, moreover, that the “I” knows and relies fully on this intimate and undoubted source of help and comfort. This is a truth not doubted in this community of prayer, but never comprehended by the company of the cynical in verse 14, who do not “set you [God] before them.”

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms*, in *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 371-374.



## PRAYER LIST (6/25/23)

- Friends & family of Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin, Scott Higgins, Ed Krom, Ron Whitebred, Chris Crowder, Morris Nicholson, Eddy Razzaboni, Flora Kenyon, 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, diagnosed with 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 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 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, on the heart transplant list.
- 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 Bob, Barbara's ex-husband, who's facing medical issues
- For Frank, Marjorie's friend, with a spot on his lung which requires a biopsy
- For Okie, Marjorie's friend, whose pain control medications aren't working any longer
- For Kayla's son, Candy's friend, who only six months old; he was dropped and has fractured his skull. His brain looks good so far.
- For Jessica, recovering from a broken arm
- 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>2</sup>**

O God, I praise you as I arise this morning. You are the giver of all life and you provide for what you have made. Be with my spirit this day and teach me to be thankful for all that you offer. Move me to be generous with others, sharing not only goods, but also time, patience, and kindness. You know what will happen today. Guide me so that I do what pleases you. Be near to me and help me to trust your love.

I pray for all the world today, for what I do has effects far beyond what I can know or understand.

By your Holy Spirit,  
let me speak peace,  
let me do peace,  
let me be peace,

in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Creator of heaven and earth, light and darkness, day and night, I thank you for the day just past that you have given me in your mercy. I pray for your forgiveness for those things I did that were displeasing to you and for those missed opportunities to show my love for you. Let me rest tonight, trusting in the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ. Restore my mind and body as I sleep so that when I awake I will have the strength to serve you and your children well. O beloved God, let me rise to a new day giving you thanks and praise, in the name of Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

What does the story of Sarah and Hagar (Gen. 21:8–21) say about God? What does the story suggest about how we might treat one another more justly?

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<sup>2</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.

## Announcements

The church's financial obligations continue.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
May	\$45,751	\$42,877	\$2,874

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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

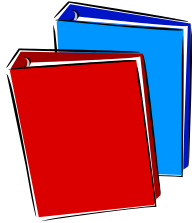
### **Help Lines**

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

# 2023

## Supply List for “Backpacks for Back to School”



- 2 inch- 3 Ring Binders -- required in High School
- Loose leaf filler paper
- Tabbed Dividers
- Spiral notebooks



- Handheld Pencil Sharpener
- Separate erasers
- Pens
- 12 inch Rulers
- Protractor or multi-piece Drafting package

- Scotch tape
- Staplers (mini or desk size)
- Student Scissors
- Safety Scissors for Younger Students



- Dry-Erase Markers for all grades

- Crayons (Boxes of 24)
- Colored pencils (Bright or Bold)
- Washable colored markers
- Pencil boxes or Pouches for elementary school children
- Lunch Boxes/Snack Bags for elementary school children



- Calculators for High School students
- Index Cards



*And most important,*

- New Backpacks for Boys and Girls  
Grades Kindergarten  
Thru 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Thank you!