



*Brookline Community Church
July 2, 2023
Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister*

Photo by [Kampus Production](#)

Prelude

Call To Worship, Psalm 13, p. 429-430

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever?

All: How long

Leader: will you hide your face from me?

All: How long

Leader: must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

All: How long

Leader: shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes,

**All: or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.**

<Pause>

Leader: But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

**All: I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

RESPONSE: [A Different Kind of Amen](#)

Hymn: #416 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

Children's Message: *What kind of welcome should we offer?*

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 Concerns¹:

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.]

Sacrament of Communion

¹ Today's Prayer of Joys and Concerns was inspired by Rev. Arlene Tully, Many Waters District Superintendent who offered the UMC's Daily Prayer on May 10, 2023.

Prayer of Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins to God,
whose loving-kindness endures forever.

**All: O Lord, you taught us to love you
and our neighbor,
but we have not lived in right relationship
or walked in the light of your love.
Forgive us for the wrongs we have done;
we know that the wages of sin is death.
Yet we trust in your gift of forgiveness,
which is freedom and life in Christ.**

Minister: Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven
by the mercy of Christ.
Be at peace, for you have been freed from sin
that you may serve with righteousness,
to the glory and praise of God.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Invitation to the Table

Minister: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God most high.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Words of Consecration

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We give you thanks O God for having renewed and refreshed us with
this sacrament of your love and for being present with us through
Christ. We ask, O God, that our faith be strengthened and our love
for one another be increased that we would be a true witness to your
love. We ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn: #689 *The Church's One Foundation*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:40-42, p. 791-792

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes
the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will
receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the
name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever
gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a
disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: #739 *Pass It On*

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:**

Faithful God, we give you thanks
that you have entrusted us with
the gift of hospitality and generosity,
and that you have set us free
to be generous givers
of the gifts you so freely give to us.
May our offerings this day
draw us closer to you
as we share them with others
for righteousness’ sake. Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 13)

Leader: How long, O LORD? Because this is not just a bad day. This has been going on for too long, and I just don’t have anything left.

All: How long

Leader: will you be AWOL? I’ve done everything I know how to do, and I can’t find you, feel you in my life, meet you where I’ve met you before.

All: How long

Leader: am I going to carry this shattered glass in my soul? Because I am getting too broken to fix if it doesn’t stop soon.

All: How long

Leader: will separation from you, will sin, make me miserable?

Answer me, I’m begging. Because I’m exhausted with holding it together on my own.

All: Answer me, or I will give up, and sin will have won, and everyone will think you don’t care.

<Pause>

Leader: After a long time, a long time in the darkness, you came back. I can find my way to your steadfastlove now. I can remember and believe in your promise of my salvation.

All: So I will sing to the LORD, the one who loved me enough to let me call out and demand God's return. Because I am worth being loved by the Creator of everything, even when I feel like nothing that anything could love.

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.

The blessing response is "Not Long"

Notes:

Psalm 13

The psalm begins with the characteristic elements of “plea.” The fourfold “how long” of verses 1-2 amounts to a complaint that the impatient speaker is in an unbearable situation that the speaker fully expects God to remedy. The phrase “how long” is not a request for a timetable; rather it is a statement of impatient hope. The present unbearable circumstance need not last if God will simply pay attention. The protest includes an accusation against God, who has forgotten and hidden from the speaker, a violation of God’s promised attentive fidelity.

In verse 3, God is addressed with three urgent verbs: “look, answer, give light.” The initial verb summons God to notice the plight of the petitioner. The third verb, “give light,” suggests a specific answer. “Light” here is the power of life, for the speaker in present circumstances is about to sink into oblivion and is without resources.

Perhaps the most interesting element of the psalm is the introduction of three motivational clauses. They give God a reason for engaging in the trouble of the speaker and answering the petition. God must act for the speaker in order to exhibit God’s own sovereign power.

Then we have a pause. When the speaker continues, everything has been changed. God has seen, has answered, and has acted to sustain the life of the desperate one. Perhaps we pray, hope, and demand because we trust completely that God’s steadfast love will prevail over every threat of death, darkness and instability. Given that effective steadfast love of God, the speaker can respond and sing. The prayer that began in dismay now concludes in full and glad praise, thanksgiving, and buoyant trust in the divine. Indeed, the trust so evident in the conclusion was in fact the same trust that permitted the lament in the first place.

Adapted from Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 75-79.



PRAYER LIST (7/2/23)

- 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 Rick, Nancy's cousin, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer
- For Jen, the Aitken's friend, diagnosed with cancer
- For the friends and family of Ella, Jessica's relative, died of lymphoma at age 8, right after the Field Day she wanted to see.
- 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
- For Brandon, Jill & Kevin's friend, on the heart transplant list.
- For Kim, Amy's friend, who is in the hospital
- For the friends and family of Shawn, Keri Haight's friend, who passed away but changed lives through organ donation
- 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
- 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 the friends and family of Barry Fisher, a friend of Marcia, who died unexpectedly at 58
- For Kim, Donna's relative, who has had complications in her liver transplant and is having to go through more medical procedures
- For Mark, John Nicholson's brother, who's facing medical complications
- For Kevin, Kevin's dad, who's facing some medical issues
- For Ethel Long, who's having a tough week
- For Debbie Loskamp, Susan Haight's relative, who's facing bladder cancer
- 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

I rise this day in the power of your Holy Spirit, O God. I lift up my hands, my heart, and my songs to praise you, O Christ. Be for me today, my Savior, the guardian in my weakness, a friend on my journey, and my aim for all I seek to do. May all who speak to me say, "Peace"; may all to whom I speak hear, "Love." Give visions of Christ in pined beauty around tables of meeting, along paths of dappling shadows, and in the faces of loved ones and strangers. Whether the day is bright or gloomy, be my light. Then, when the night begins to fall, bid me home—be my home, that I may find my rest in you, O Three in One. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Be my light, O Creator of light, as evening comes to my home and to me. Let me see your name written in sparkling stars, glowing planets, dancing cosmic wind. Let me hear you pass gently in the cool of the night's breeze, on the wings of the night-flying creatures. And if there are to be storms this night, so that I shall not see the sky, and a gale howls with fearful threats, let me still put my trust in you, rest in you. Or, because there is a need in the world, rise up as you give me strength to bear witness with heart and hands to the world's true light, in whose name I pray. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What is God asking me to return? Why? What might be the outcome?

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 +/-
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.

Potluck Brunch on July 17 at the Church

Jesus ate with his disciples (and other folks!) and reflect on Scripture and a life of faith. So we will too. On July 17, we'll have a potluck brunch and reflect on his teaching in the Parable of the Sower. Mark your calendar!

Help taking the piano in the church's front hall to the Transfer Station

We're looking for some strong souls and a pick up truck to take the spinet piano in the front hall to the Transfer Station. If you can provide either one, please contact Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com).

Making Space for Newness in the Church

Churches have a habit of collecting items that bring joy for a while before converting to clutter. So if you have something that you think might be worth having appraised so it can go brighten someone else's life, please take it to the second floor Youth Room and leave it on the table that used to be in the Deacons' Room. Contact Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) for more info.

Brookline is looking for folks to help with Preambulation

The Selectboard is looking for volunteers to assist with the process of "renewing" the boundaries of the Town of Brookline. Because of the size of the task, this may be done in segments over a period of several weeks, if necessary. This may start late-Summer and lead into Fall....but certainly before the snow flies! Click [here for more details](#).

2023 Parking Passes are available for the Grove

You'll need a parking pass to park for our Lake worship services in 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.

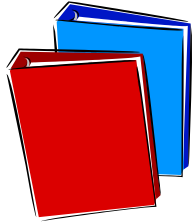
Help Lines

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

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 12th Grade
Thank you!