



Photo by [Bilakis](#)

[Prelude: All Creatures of Our God and King by Camp Kirkland](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 119:1-8, p. 493

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.

**All: Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.**

Leader: You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.

**All: O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!**

Leader: Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

**All: I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.**

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

Children's Message: *Who's in the Kingdom of God?*

Hymn: [My God is So Big by Kid Jamz](#)

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
The mountains are his
The valleys are his
The stars are his handy work too
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do

(repeat)

(repeat in a DEEP voice)

(repeat in a WHISPER)

(repeat in a LOUD voice)

The mountains are his
The valleys are his
The stars are his handy work too
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do
There's nothing my God cannot do
There's nothing my God cannot do

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.]

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.

Hymn: Come! Live in the Light! by the Summit Ave Church, Bremerton, WA

Come! Live in the Light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be Light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless, so hatred and violence will be no more

We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:27-32

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

'It was also said, "Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce." But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:1-14

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he cured them there.

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female", and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' They said to him, 'Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?' He said to them, 'It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but at the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.'

His disciples said to him, 'If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.' But he said to them, 'Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.'

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: All Praise to Him by Sovereign Grace Music

All praise to Him, the God of light.
Who formed the mountains by His
might

All praise to Him who names the
stars that sing His fame in skies afar

All praise to Him who reigns in love
Who guides the galaxies above

Yet bends to hear our every prayer
With sovereign pow'r and tender care

All praise to Him whose love is seen
In Christ the Son, the Servant King

Who left behind His glorious throne
to pay the ransom for His own

All praise to Him who humbly came
To bear our sorrow, sin, and shame

Who lived to die, who died to rise
The all-sufficient sacrifice

All praise to Him whose pow'r
imparts The love of God within our
hearts

The Spirit of all truth and peace The
Fount of joy and holiness

To Father, Son, and Spirit now Our
souls we lift, our wills we bow

To You, the triune God, we raise
With loving hearts our song of praise

To Father, Son, and Spirit now Our
souls we lift, our wills we bow

To You, the triune God, we raise
With loving hearts our song of praise

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:**

**Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks,
so that together we may plant and water
the seeds of your new world.
May we be your faithful servants
as we cultivate your love,
knowing that in all we accomplish,
it is you who gives the growth. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 119:1-8)

Leader: Accept the freedom to walk in the Way of God, across all your journeys in life.

All: Assemble your intentions and intellect and emotions in order to seeking our God's instructions for your life

Leader: Advance in God's way, letting God steer you around trouble and failure,

All: Absorb God's instructions on how to live, how to pace yourselves and be diligent

Leader: Align me on the straight and narrow, Holy One, keep me walking.

All: Abolishing regrets and shame in my life, God gives me the guidance I need to focus on.

Leader: Always studying, learning, focusing on what God is asking me and my community to do,

All: Aided by God's passage unfolding just for me, I'll be guided by God's instruction and God's loving companionship, all the days of my life.

Leader: Amen and

All: Amen.

[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: Dear Lord by the Golden Gates Acapella](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is the longest of all the psalms. An acrostic psalm where each letter of the alphabet receives eight entries before the poem moves to the next letter.

First, the psalm wants to instruct the young in the “a-b-c’s” of obedience to God’s instructions or torah. Second, it affirms that torah will cover every facet of human existence from A to Z. Third, the message is that life is reliable and utterly symmetrical when the torah is honored. A torah-ordered life is as safe, predictable, and complete as is the movement of the psalm.

Content-wise, the psalm affirms that the torah is not just a set of rules, but it is a mode of God's life-giving presence. Obedience to the torah is a source of light, life, joy, delight. This psalm instructs people in the need, possibility, and delight of setting strong foundations for identity and vocation. Torah living does not require keeping options open about who we shall be.

Furthermore, torah obedience is a starting point, a launching pad, from which to mount an ongoing conversation with God through daily experience. It is simply a statement of trust and submission to a God who has been found to be good and generous.

On the one hand, the psalm understands that life with God is a two-way street. Torah keepers have a right to expect something from God. Obedience gives entry to seek God's attention in God's gift.

On the other hand, having earned the right to speak, the speaker nevertheless throws himself on the mercy of God and waits for a move from God – a free, unfettered, uncoerced move from God. A life of full obedience is not a conclusion of faith. It is by mercy and not by obedience that the psalmist lives (v. 77).

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 39-41.



PRAYER LIST (7/9/23)

- 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 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 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 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 Debbie Loskamp, Susan Haight's relative, who's facing bladder cancer
- For Leo, Amy's son George's friend
- For Allison, Megan's friend, who broke her elbow and her pelvis, may she recover quickly
- For Tim, Megan's friend, who passed out in the shower and now they're figuring out why
- For Jessica, recovering from a broken arm
- For Barbara's friend, who flipped her car. Everyone's ok, but she's facing the challenge of no longer driving
- 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

As the darkness recedes, open my eyes to the gift of this day; help me to trust you with all that it will hold. In the hours to come, as my plans are interrupted, tune

my ear to the sound of your voice,
my eye to the movement of your Spirit,
my heart to the strength of your desire,

that I might glimpse your hidden graces and be strengthened in your service, for I would be your instrument. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful God, I come weary, grateful for the chance to meet you in the silence, eager to be washed again in your claim. Lift from me the burdens I do not easily yield. In your gracious provision, fit me with a better yoke that I might rest as a child secure and rise with a teachable spirit. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What misplaced burdens are you carrying? Where might God be offering you a more well-fitted yoke? Where are your expectations of God and the church unmet? Where do you sense God moving in hidden ways?

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.

	YTD Actual Income	YTD Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
June	\$51,136	\$49,469	\$1,667

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.

Quarterly Church Statements via email!

As we upgrade the church's accounting software, we're experimenting with sending your quarterly statements via email. Let Bill (financechair@bccnh.org) know if you need any corrections.

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.

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