



Photo by [Tom Fisk](#)

***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."

Blessing for Our Brunch

Sacrament of Communion

Prayer of Confession

Minister: The Scriptures are shot through with stories of people just like us:
men who grieved, women who questioned,
siblings who did not get along,
parents who chose favorites.
God's word of grace is meant for people just like us.
There is no need for pretense in this place.
Let us go to God in prayer.

All: Patient and persistent God
we come, polished and presentable,
to this comfortable room
as if we knew what to expect,
as if this were a safe and predictable place,
as if we could simply observe.
Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations.
In the mystery of your love, overshadow us.
Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts
until we bloom and spill with your passion
to serve in a world that is wasting.

Minister: There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.
The Spirit of God dwells in you.
If you hear nothing else today, hear these words:
there is no condemnation.

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, p. 794:

‘That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!’

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

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

Small Group Discussion:

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.

Announcements

[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.”](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (7/16/23)

- 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 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 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 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 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 Karl Crossman, Rena's son-in-law, home after a hospital stay because of blood clots
- For Kaelyn, Jessica's daughter, making a tough journey
- For Mike, Susan & Russell's daughter Stacey's friend in Florida, whose recovery is going to include changes in his personality and identity because of the head trauma
- For Nancy, Kym's sister, who's having a second hip replacement surgery on the same hip
- 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: Morning¹

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Living Word, shine on this day. Quicken my steps and open my ears that I might approach each neighbor with an expectant heart. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Beacon of truth, I entrust to you now the day that has been:

the tasks accomplished and tasks overlooked;
the friends acknowledged and the friends ignored;
the silence kept and the silence squandered.

In your mercy, mend these tattered offerings.

Grant me the gift of rest this night and good companions on the morrow, as you speak me further down the path toward home. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

How is God's resurrecting Spirit at work in you and in your community? Where are you experiencing new life? Where are you struggling? How might God be bringing new life from that struggle?

Daily Awareness Reflection²

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 ...

¹ 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.

² Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

Announcements

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.

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

The church's financial obligations continue.

	Actual Income	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.

