



*Brookline Community Church*  
*August 6, 2023*  
*Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister*

Photo by [Karolina Grabowska](#):

[Prelude: \*Let Justice from Your Presence Come \(Psalm 17\)\* by Anatomy of the Soul](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 17:1-7, 15, p. 431:**

A Prayer of David.

Leader: Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;  
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.  
From you let my vindication come;  
let your eyes see the right.

**All: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,  
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;  
my mouth does not transgress.**

Leader: As for what others do, by the word of your lips  
I have avoided the ways of the violent.  
My steps have held fast to your paths;  
my feet have not slipped.

**All: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me, hear my words.**

Leader: Wondrously show your steadfast love,  
O savior of those who seek refuge  
from their adversaries at your right hand.

**All: As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

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

**Children's Message: *New Names***

Hymn: [Father Abraham by Apple Crisol](#)

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm left arm

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm left arm right foot

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm left arm right foot left foot

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm left arm right foot left foot chin up

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm left arm right foot left foot chin up turn around

Father Abraham had many sons. Many sons had Father Abraham. I am one of them and so are you. So let's just praise the LORD!

Right arm left arm right foot left foot chin up turn around SIT DOWN!

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>**

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<sup>1</sup> Today's Prayer of Joys and Concerns was inspired by Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, Green Mountain District Superintendent who offered the UMC's Daily Prayer on August 1, 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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

**[Hymn: Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown by Washington Choral Arts Society](#)**

Come, O thou traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see! My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee. With thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day. With thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day.

I need not tell thee who I am, my misery and sin declare; thyself hast called me by my name, look on thy hands and read it there. But who, I ask thee, who art thou? Tell me thy name and tell me now. But who, I ask thee, who are thou? Tell me thy name and tell me now.

Yield to me now for I am weak, but confident in self-despair! Speak to my heart, in blessing speak; be conquered by my instant prayer. Speak, or thou never hence shalt move, and tell me if thy name is Love. Speak, or thou never hence shalt move, and tell me if thy name is Love.

'Tis Love, 'tis Love! Thou diedst for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart. The morning breaks, the shadows flee; pure, universal love thou art. To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love. To me, to all, thy mercies move; thy nature and thy name is Love.

## Sacrament of Communion

### Prayer of Confession

Minister: Let us confess our sins  
in the presence of the One  
who blesses us and meets our need.

**All: God of compassion, we are sick.  
We have wrestled all night with worry  
instead of resting in you.  
We have asserted our own goodness  
instead of awakening to yours.  
We have turned away those hungry for your help  
instead of trusting you and feeding them  
from your limitless supply of blessings.  
Forgive us, heal us, and help us to  
hold on to you.  
We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Minister: The God of steadfast love is our refuge and Savior.  
In Christ, we who are broken  
are healed, forgiven, filled, and transformed.

**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: [In Remembrance of Me by Cheri Keaggy](#)**

This is my body given for you. This is the cup that holds the blood of the new covenant. This is forgiveness, simple and true. This is the way that I have made for you.

Before you eat, before you drink. Take a long look inside and tell me what you see. He said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" "Do this in remembrance of Me"

This is the bread of life broken for you. This is the cup that holds the wine of the new covenant. This is the love of Christ poured out anew. This is the Son of God who died for you.

Before you eat, before you drink. Take a long look inside and tell me what you see. Then do this in remembrance of Me. Do this in remembrance of Me.

I will remember the cross that You bore for me. I will remember the crown that You wore for me. I will remember the reason You suffered and died.

This is my body given for you. This is the cup that holds the blood of the new covenant. This is forgiveness, simple and true. This is the way that I have made for you. I am the way. This is the way that I have made for you.

**Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:22-31, p. 26**

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

[Hymn: Jacob's Song by Gabrielle Ariana](#)

### 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:**

We thank you, our Father, that you have  
empowered us  
to participate in the miraculous multiplying  
ministry of your Son.  
Receive now these gifts you have provided us  
out of your abundance  
that your miracle ministry may multiply  
to satisfy the hungry of this world today;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Announcements

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 17:1-7, 15)**

Leader: I am innocent of the wrongdoing I have been accused of. And I will state my innocence plainly and before God and all God's creation. Because God knows how innocent I am.

**All: God can come when I am at my weakest, and my most vulnerable and troubled and God will find no trace of wrongdoing, neither by word or by deed.**

Leader: Not only am I not guilty of what I am accused of, you can judge me by all my actions, by how I walk through life and I have not stepped away from God's path.

**All: God who has always been willing to intervene in human history, intervene now. You are not shy to send word when your people head in the wrong direction. I will not be shy to ask for your all-powerful help.**

Leader: You brought us out of slavery in Egypt, you protected us through that long journey. You have protected us since. Once again, one of your children asks for refuge.

**All: Be there when the dawn breaks, greeting me like a parent with open arms and a smiling face.**

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: How Deep the Father’s Love for Us by Phillips, Craig and Dean**

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







## PRAYER LIST (8/6/23)

- 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 Rick, Nancy's cousin, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer
- For Jen, the Aitken's friend, has tested clear for cancer and it on maintenance chemo going forward
- For Alex, Marjorie's friend, whose diagnosis at the Mayo Clinic means more chemotherapy to hopefully get a better handle on the cancer.
- 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 Jessica & Elianna, recovering together from a pair of broken arms
- For Kim, Donna's relative, whose liver transplant had a setback
- 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, still recovering in the hospital
- For Allison, Megan's friend, who broke her elbow and her pelvis
- For Tim, Megan's friend, who passed out unexpectedly in the shower
- For Karl Crossman, Rena's son-in-law, home after a hospital stay
- For Nancy, Kym's sister, who's having a second hip replacement surgery on the same hip
- For Nancy, John Lee's roommate, who's facing a cancer diagnosis
- 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>**

God of daybreak, thank you for holding me through the night and awakening me to behold your likeness in this brand-new day. Go with me now as I walk with you. Show me the world and its people through your eyes of compassion. Bless me, break me, and move through me to heal and feed those who hunger for you. Amen.

## **Household Prayer: Evening**

O God, tonight I lay my failures, anxieties, struggles, and unfinished business at your feet. Hold me, bless me, and change me as I rest in you. Amen.

## **Questions for Reflection**

“Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak” (Gen. 32:24). Why do you think God allows times of struggle in our lives? How have times of struggle affected your walk with God? How does your relationship with God affect your view of overwhelming problems in the world, such as hunger, poverty, violence, or injustice?

## **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>3</sup>**

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 ...

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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.

<sup>3</sup> Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

## **Announcements**

### **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](mailto: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 Dunbar ([financechair@bccnh.org](mailto:financechair@bccnh.org)) know if you need any corrections.

### **Brookline's Food Pantry welcomes garden produce**

If you've got extra produce from your garden, the Food Pantry would welcome it! Click [here for more details](#).

### **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](#).

### **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.

### **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.

