

Brookline Community Church
August 20, 2023
Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister

[Photo by Lukas Rodriguez:](#)

[Prelude: See How Good It Is \(Psalm 133\) by Wendell Kimbrough featuring Sandra McCracken](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 133, p. 501:
A Song of Ascents.

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!

**All: It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

Leader: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**All: For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.**

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

Prayer for Hawaii¹

Children's Message: *Getting from Here to There*

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.

[And if we don't have a desire to jump around as much, God Moves in a Mysterious Way by Gary Brumley](#)

God moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea. And rides upon the storm.

You fearful saints, fresh courage take: the clouds you so much dread, are big with mercy and shall break. In blessings on your head.

O, bless the Lord with heart and soul, let all within me sing. And trust the wisdom of my God, my Father, Lord, my King.

¹ The Prayer for Hawaii was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Praying 1 Kings 19 for Hawai'i," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted August 10, 2023, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2023/08/10/praying-1-kings-19-for-hawaii/> (accessed August 16, 2023).

With deepest wisdom, highest love, and never-failing skill. He masterminds His bright designs, and works His sovereign will.

Hi purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour; the bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

O, bless the Lord with heart and soul, let all within me sing. And trust the purpose of my God, my Father, Lord, my King.

Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace; behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

O, bless the Lord with heart and soul, let all within me sing. And trust the goodness of my God, my Father, Lord, my King.

Behind a frowning providence Lord hides his smiling face.

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

The response to “Lord, help us.” is “**We trust in you.**”

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.]

[Hymn: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive by Koine](#)

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray. But you alone can grant us grace, to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart, that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew: what trivial debts are owed to us; how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease; then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace. Our lives will spread your peace.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:1-15, p. 37:

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

[Hymn: *Where Forgiveness Is* by Sidewalk Prophets](#)

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:**

Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy
than we could imagine
and more blessings than we deserve.
Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you,
that your mercy may be multiplied
and your blessings abound
to embrace all those in need. Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 133)

Leader: Like when God saw that creation was good and called it "good," it's that kind of good when we live together with a unity like siblings making life work under a single roof.

All: Unity is like fragrant oil that's used to anoint someone special, maybe even the messiah, the Anointed One, and the scent lingers all around us.

Leader: Unity is like the dew flowing down off the mountains, feeding the rivers that sustain us, all without any effort on our part, it's just there for us to benefit from.

All: God has promised those blessing will run down to us, shall sweeten our days and refresh our nights.

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: [Forgiven by Sovereign Grace Music](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (8/20/23)

- Friends & family of Jane Jukes, 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 Dave Joki and Dave Flannery, both members of the Brookline Fire Department, both fighting cancer
- For Paul, John's friend, who's in a tough fight with cancer.
- For Kim, Donna's relative, whose liver transplant had a setback
- For Brandon, Jill & Kevin's friend, on the heart transplant list.
- 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 Tim & Judy, Megan's friends, recovering from medical setbacks
- For Karl Crossman, Rena's son-in-law, home after a hospital stay
- For Nancy, John Lee's roommate, who's facing a cancer diagnosis
- For Bob, Barbara's ex-husband, may his declining health not put too great a burden on their three girls
- For Franta, the Avramovs' friend, heading back to the Czech Republic
- For the people of Hawaii, facing wildfires and typhoons at the same time
- 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

Merciful God, this day is full of your possibilities for healing and reconciliation, for new beginnings and restored relationships. Unite my heart with your will so that your abundant anointing will flow through me. Send me now with your promised blessings to preserve the lives of those in need. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of the night watches, guard me from torment, release me from distress. Call me close to you and kiss me with your favor that I may rest secure in you. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Why do you think Jesus resisted the Canaanite woman's request (in Matthew 15:10-28)? How does this fit with your idea of Jesus' mercy and love? What changed his mind? How does this influence your faith in God?

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

Special September Take Home Meal THURSDAY, Sept 7

To support the Stand Down for Veterans, we're having a Mac & Cheese with Bacon on THURSDAY, Sept 7. We'll make sure the proceeds get to the Stand Down the next day. Great food for a great event!

Very Little Bit Helps – Helping Our Veterans: Donations due Sept 3.

The annual NH Stand Down Event for Veterans experiencing homelessness will be September 8. Please help us reach out and support our homeless and struggling veterans who have served our country and now need our assistance. The goal of this event is to connect our veterans experiencing homelessness to resources.

Outreach is asking for donations of **NEW** socks & underwear, blankets, long sleeve sweatshirts and sweatpants, outdoor clothing for the cold winter months coming up etc. These items will be handed out at the event so please remember all items need to be NEW. If you have gently used clothing items to donate, Outreach will find a home for them at one of the organizations we work with.

Please bring your donations (items or money) to the church by **Sunday, September 3rd**. There will be a barrel outside by the parking lot side door to put items in, leave in the front hall at the church or contact Amy Razzaboni to make other arrangements.

If you have any questions or want more information you can speak with any member of the Outreach Board or contact Amy Razzaboni at arazz3914@gmail.com.

We're looking for donations of:

- Market Basket food cards
- Gas cards
- Blankets
- Cold weather gear
- Sleeping bags
- Tents
- Tarps
- Can openers
- Utensils
- Quarters for laundry
- Laundry detergent
- Clean clothes – NEW, not used
- Socks
- Boots, Boots, Boots.
- Shoes and sneakers (dress shoes- for work)
- Dress shirts
- Dress slacks- casual work apparel-NEW
- Wipes & Tissues, First aid kits
- Travel Size hygiene items - female and male
- Water in cardboard containers
- Chargers- for phones with cords – \$10 at Walmart
- Readers- 1/2/3- glasses

Emptying the Dehumidifiers at the Church

If you're at the church, please take a minute to empty the dehumidifier in the basement or the back hall. The water gets emptied down the toilet.

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'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 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 +/-
July	\$56,763	\$58,430	(\$1,667)

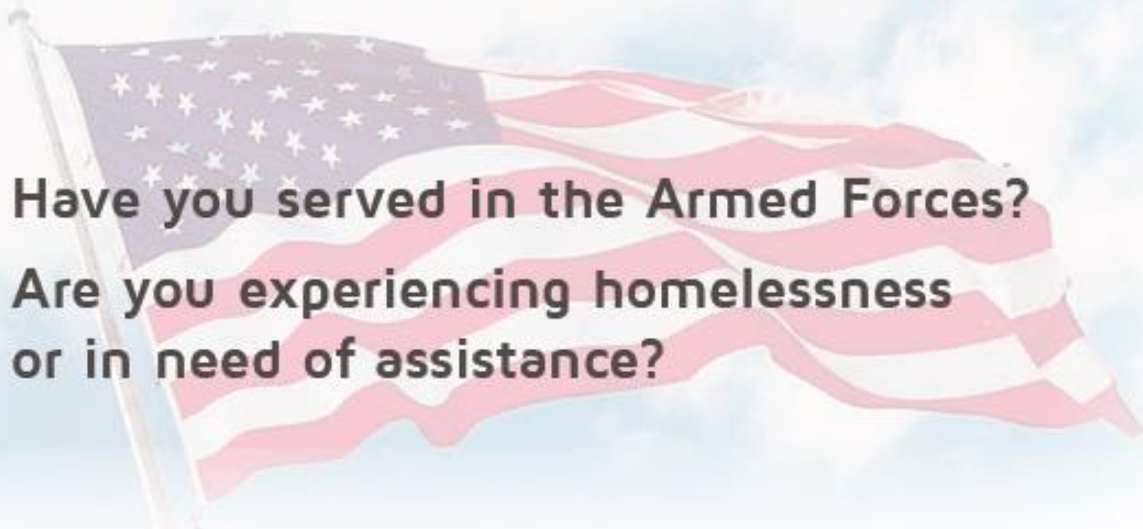
There are several ways to send your offering.

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.



NH STAND DOWN

A resource & service expo for former service members



Have you served in the Armed Forces?
Are you experiencing homelessness
or in need of assistance?

Help is available!

Employment Services
Medical Advice
Food

Clothing
Haircuts
Legal Advice

Pension Claims
Counseling
And More!

September 8, 2023 10am - 2pm

Double Tree, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101

Transportation services will be provided by SSVF and the VA.

For more information contact: Andrea May
603-882-3616 x1111 a.may@harborcarenh.org



Veterans FIRST

A Program of Harbor Care

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Harbor Care's Veterans FIRST program
in partnership with USVA, USDOL, and
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