



Brookline Community Church
August 27, 2023
Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister

[Photo by Kuntal Biswas:](#)

Prelude: *Great is Thy Faithfulness* by Ferando Ortega

Call To Worship, Psalm 124, p. 498:

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

Leader: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

**All: if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;**

Leader: then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

**All: Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.**

Leader: We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

**All: Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

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

Children's Message: *Sisters Watching Out for Brothers*

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, I Love to Tell the Story by Spiritual Eldercare

I love to tell the story of unseen things above. Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story because I know it's true. It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory. To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best. Seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest.

And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song 'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory. To tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

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: If It Had Not Been for the Lord by Keith and Kristyn Getty

If it had not been for the LORD on our side
when strong raging floods surrounded us
We'd be surely crushed beneath the waves of sin
If it had not been for
If it had not been for the LORD

If it had not been for the LORD on our side
When dry desert plains had wearied us.
But for grace we'd still be wandering in those lands
If it had not been for
If it had not been for the LORD

Our Hope our Help from age to age the same
Our God our Rock most worthy to be praised
From this mount of grace
Our grateful hearts will say
Evermore...

If it had not been for the LORD

If it had not been for the Lamb on that cross
Where love full and free reached down to us
There would be no peace with God
No peace with man

If it had not been for

If it had not been for the LORD

Our Hope our Help from age to age the same
Our God our Rock most worthy to be praised
From this mount of grace
Our grateful hearts will say
Evermore...

If it had not been for the LORD

If it had not been for the LORD on that day
Before heaven's throne what would we say
There with endless wonder we will shout Amen
If it had not been for

If it had not been for the LORD

Our Hope our Help from age to age the same
Our God our Rock most worthy to be praised
From this mount of grace
Our grateful hearts will say
Evermore...

If it had not been for the LORD

If it had not been for the LORD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10, p. 43:

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.'

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: Remember by Bryan & Katie Torwalt

How quickly we forget the God who lives in everyday
How easy to lose sight that You reside in the mundane
How quickly we forget the power that's running through our veins
The kind of power that empties graves

And oh my soul
Remember who you're talking to
The only one who death bows to
That's the God who walks with you
And oh my soul
You know that if He did it then
He can do it all again
His power can still raise the dead
Don't tell me that He's finished yet

Lest we not forget the voice that's holding back the waves
Was once the voice that told the skies to pour them into place
Let us join the endless song of everlasting praise
The only God who empties graves

And oh my soul
Remember who you're talking to
The only one who death bows to
That's the God who walks with you
And oh my soul
You know that if He did it then
He can do it all again
His power can still raise the dead
Don't tell me that He's finished yet

If You broke through the oceans
You can break through these chains
If Your word made the mountains
It can move them all the same
If death fell before You
And it's still on its face
Then the power that raised You
Is about to move again (*repeat*)

Oh my soul
Remember who you're talking to
The only one who death bows to
That's the God who walks with you
And oh my soul
You know that if He did it then
Then He can do it all again
His power can still raise the dead
Don't tell me that He's finished yet
He's not finished yet
And Oh my soul
His power can still raise the dead
Don't tell me that He's finished yet

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:**

**Almighty God,
you took a baby from the Nile
and used him to lead your people to the
promised land.
Take our offerings
and use them for your people in this land and
throughout your world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 124)

Leader: If God had not been on our side, oh say it again my brothers and sisters,

All: If God had not been on our side,

Leader: It would have been a train wreck. Our opponents, our doubts, our fears would have eaten us alive

All: Chaos would have taken hold and swept us away, like all the floods this summer in Vermont and California,

Leader: God is with us, and with every suffering soul who can feel the predator's breath on their neck, the anger, the loneliness, the sorrow.

All: God has set us free, like a bird that has been struggling in a cage, in a trap, in a garage or attic, not able to get out and then suddenly the window is open and the sky is full of flapping and escape.

Leader: Our help is in the Lord, and we forget how often everyone overlooks God's power to help and heal, as if it didn't count.

All: God made the heaven and the earth, and God never abandons what God has created, even if they are facing fear, drowning in despair, trapped by tragedy.

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: Song of Moses by Aaron Keyes](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 124

This psalm of thanksgiving is highly disciplined and intentionally written. It gives thanks for a communal deliverance, though we don't know the particulars.

1. Verses 1-5 are a wonderful symmetrical statement. The contrast is set by the following three statements of "then," which lay out the dire results if God had not been involved. The psalm presents such a negative scenario only to dismiss it because, in fact, God was present and on our side. The thanks that follows is in celebration that God was and is "on our side," and therefore the possible bad things did not happen. They could have, but it is God's tenacious commitment to us that precludes the destructive work of the enemy. God is for us, with us, belongs to us – utterly committed.

The threats are presented in varied imagery, but they mostly refer to the power of the evil chaotic waters. Even the opening verb, "swallow," in verse 3 probably refers to being swallowed up by the evil waters. The waters speak about a general, massive, and seemingly irresistible threat. God's sovereignty puts the waters back in bounds and robs them of their force.

2. Verses 6-7 use a quite different image, of snares. The invitation to praise is grounded in the double use of "escape," which suggests that we are the hunted and will be devoured. But again, God has not permitted it.

3. The conclusion in verse 8 sounds like a serene verdict that is based on the preceding particulars. The Psalm moves from partisan claim to universal affirmation. The psalm moves from an anxious specificity to a confident generalization. Our new life, free from threat, is utterly focused on this God who will never hand us over.

Adapted from Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 139-140.



PRAYER LIST (8/27/23)

- 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 the people of Southern California, facing flooding
- 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: Morning¹

Today, O God, help me receive your revelation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. It is in his name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy God, for anything I did this day that was pleasing to you, I give you thanks and pray that you use me to your glory; for anything I did this day that was displeasing to you, I ask your forgiveness and pray that you redeem me for your glory. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

When have you succeeded in resisting the forces that seek to conform us to the world? How has that felt like “spiritual worship”? What are the ways you most readily answer Jesus’ question: “Who do you say that I am?”

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

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.

Spaghetti Supper for the Ghost Train Rail Trail Race, Friday Oct. 13

The church will again be holding a fundraiser spaghetti supper for the community and runners who will be running through the weekend. Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) is coordinating it. She'll be looking for donations of 5 sauces, garlic bread, and plenty of help. Get in touch if you can lend a hand!

Christmas Raffle is Coming!

There will be some changes this year to allow folks to buy tickets for specific prizes. So we'll be finalizing the baskets earlier (around mid-October) to allow for all the publicity and coordination that needs to go into it. Speak with Donna (dbret@charter.net) or Marjorie (mlapandrake@gmail.com) for more details!

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: 1-800-79

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

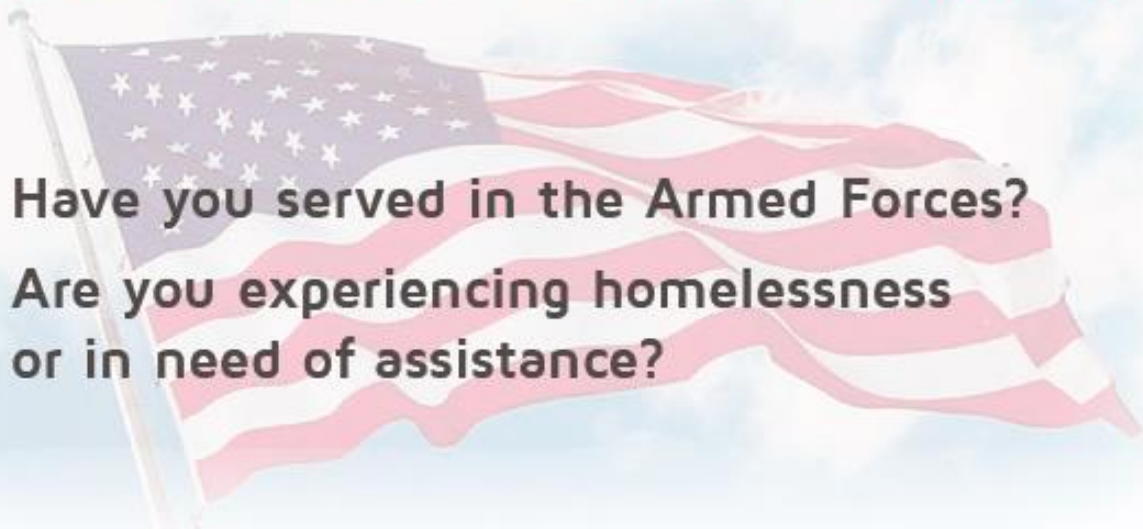


3. Mail to: Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507,
Brookline, NH 03033.



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 x 1111 a.may@harborcarenh.org



Veterans FIRST

A Program of Harbor Care

Hosted By:

Harbor Care's Veterans FIRST program
in partnership with USVA, USDOL, and
local service providers.