



Brookline Community Church
August 31, 2023
Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister

[Photo by Paulo André:](#)

Prelude: Psalm 105:1-2 featuring Moriah Linton

Call To Worship, Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b, pp. 484-485:

Leader: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

**All: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**

Leader: Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,

**All: O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

Leader: Then Israel came to Egypt;
Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

**All: And the LORD made his people very fruitful,
and made them stronger than their foes,**

Leader: whose hearts he then turned to hate his people,
to deal craftily with his servants.

**All: He sent his servant Moses,
and Aaron whom he had chosen.**

Everybody: Praise the LORD!

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

Children's Message: Feet on Holy Ground

Hymn: Here I Am, Lord by Dan Schutte featuring Ben VandeVere, tenor

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I have made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart
I will hold Your people in my heart

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: *Send Me* featuring Chris McClarney

Open these eyes
To see them like You do
Teach this heart
To love like You
Open these hands
To heal the way You do
More than
words
Let my life speak truth
To the orphan child
(send me send me)
To the outsider
(send me send me)
To the one in need
(send me send me)
To the least of these
(send me send me)
Open these ears
To hear the Father's cry
Take up my cross
And lay down my life
Open church doors
And let the streets resound
With songs of hope
As we go out
To the orphan child
(send me send me)
To the outsider
(send me send me)
To the one in need
(send me send me)
To the least of these
(send me send me)
To the orphan child
(send me send me)

To the outsider
(send me send me)
To the one in need
(send me send me)
To the least of these
(send me send me)
You said, "What you've done for
these, you have done for me" You
said, "What you've done for these,
you have done for me"
You're the orphan child
You're the outsider
You're the one in need
You're the least of these
You're the orphan child
You're the outsider
You're the one in need
You're the least of these
To the orphan child
(send me send me)
To the outsider
(send me send me)
To the one in need
(send me send me)
To the least of these
(send me send me)
To the orphan child
(send me send me)
To the outsider
(send me send me)
To the one in need
(send me send me)
To the least of these
(send me send me)

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-15, p. 44:

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I am has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you":

This is my name for ever,
and this my title for all generations.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: *More Than You Think I Am* by Danny Gokey

You always think I'm somewhere on a mountain top
But never think behind bars
You'd be amazed the places that I'd go to be with you
Where you are
So forget what you've heard
What you think that you know
There's a lot about me
That's never been told

I'm more than you dreamed
More than you understand
Your days and your times
Were destined for our dance
I catch all your tears
Burn your name on my heart
Be still and trust my plan
I'm more than you think I am (am, am, oh)
More than you think I am (am, am, oh)

Rumor has it there's a gavel in my hand
I'm only here to condemn
But let me tell you secrets you would've never known
I think of you as my best friend
So much has been said
Even doubted my name
But I'm showing you now
Who I really am

I'm more than you dreamed
More than you understand
Your days and your times
Were destined for our dance
I catch all your tears
Burn your name on my heart
Be still and trust my plan
I'm more than you think I am (am, am, oh)
More than you think I am (am, am, oh)

Let me open your eyes to see the heart of me, differently, oh
Come closer than you've ever been
Let me in like never before
Bring me every broken part
The wounds and scars of who you are
And hide in me and you will see

I'm more than you dreamed
More than you understand
Your days and your times
Were destined for our dance
I catch all your tears
Burn your name on my heart
Be still and trust my plan
I'm more than you think I am (am, am, oh)
More than you think I am (am, am, oh)

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 of holy ground,
like Moses, we question our fitness to serve
heaven's purposes on earth.
Overcome our qualms with the assurance
of your presence;
bless these offerings that, through them,
we may do your will;
in the name of the triune One. Amen

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

(a riff on Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b)

Leader: Give thanks to God for all that God has done. Because God has always been there, in the middle of things, in the middle of danger, or bringing danger to the middle, whatever is needed to protect the hungry and oppressed. Remember what God has done. Remember.

All: Remember what God has done, because God's works create abiding astonishment. When we remember God's acts, we are healed, forgiven, ransomed, restored. We cannot believe it has happened, because such a turn-around is not possible for mere humans. Remember.

Leader: Poor memory makes for poor theology, so remember what God has done for God's children throughout time. Remember.

All: Being God's chosen means we are servants to the world. Being chosen was not a one-time event, but an on-going and eternal process. Remember.

Leader: Egypt was a place of refuge at first, though we have forgotten that. Joseph arrived there as a slave and his life was saved. And even as the Pharaohs came and went, God made the chosen ones fruitful and strong, strong enough to change things, strong enough to leave. Remember.

All: Even though their enemies hated them and plotted against them, God stayed with them. He sent servants of God to be servants of people. And those servants, Moses and Aaron, in their service, were chosen to bring down a dynasty. Remember.

Everybody: We remember! Praise the LORD!

[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: From a Distance by Bette Midler](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (8/31/23)

- 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 Marcia, in the hospital with a heart attack and possible stroke, and for the Farwell family as they take care of her and Clarence
- For Candy's 97-year-old grandmother in the hospital with kidney failure, may they find a cure soon
- For Kelly, Candy's cousin, whose car accident left her with broken bones. She'll have surgery to fuse her neck vertebrae
- For Ethel in the hospital with other issues who was also able to have her dialysis
- 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

God of love, today help us to live peaceably with all. Help us live in genuine love: to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to love you, O God, with our whole heart, mind, and strength. In Jesus' loving name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy God, because you have been with us this day, we have stood on holy ground. Thank you. We know that you will remain with us through this night. Thank you. We know that you will be with us again tomorrow. Thank you. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

How can your life include a faithful response to Jesus' charge that his followers must "deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24)?

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.

Andres Institute of Art Symposium, Sept. 16 – Oct. 8

If you can volunteer in any way (helping provide meals is one way!) please let Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) know. She can put you in contact with the right people. Otherwise, save the date!

Brookline Fire Department Duck Race, Sept. 30

There are still ducks available! See Peter (pdrbret@charter.net) for tickets and more info. With all the water this summer, it should be a quick race!

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!

There's a task list in the Social Hall if you could help with a church project

Some are bigger than others; some will require supplies that the church will provide. If you have a few hours and would be willing to take on a task, we would appreciate the help!

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: 1-800-799-7233

The church's financial obligations continue.

| | Actual Income | Actual Expenses | Income vs. Expenses +/- |
|------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| July | \$56,763 | \$58,430 | (\$1,667) |

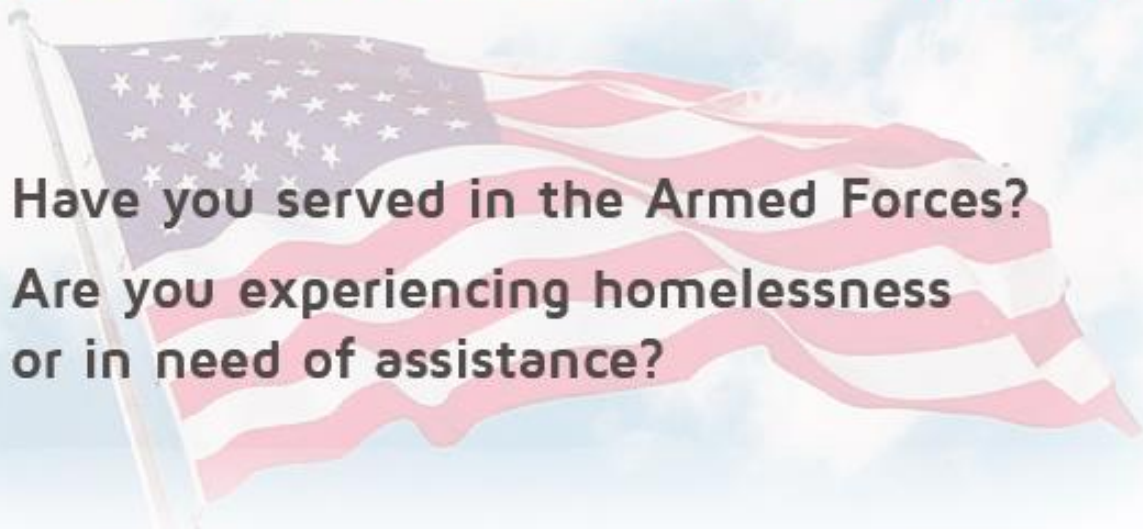
There are several ways to send your offering.

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 x 1111 a.may@harborcarenh.org



Veterans FIRST

A Program of Harbor Care

Hosted By:

Harbor Care's Veterans FIRST program
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