



*Brookline Community Church  
September 10, 2023  
Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister*

[Photo by Jack Gittoes:](#)

**Prelude: All the Way My Savior Leads Me**

**Call To Worship, Psalm 149, p. 508:**

Leader: Praise the LORD!  
Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**All: Let Israel be glad in its Maker;  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.  
Let them praise his name with dancing,  
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.**

Leader: Let Israel be glad in its Maker;  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.  
Let them praise his name with dancing,  
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

**All: For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;  
he adorns the humble with victory.  
Let the faithful exult in glory;  
let them sing for joy on their couches.**

Leader: Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
and two-edged swords in their hands,  
to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishment on the peoples,

**All: to bind their kings with fetters  
and their nobles with chains of iron,  
to execute on them the judgement decreed.  
This is glory for all his faithful ones.**

**Everybody: Praise the LORD!**

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

### **Sacrament of Communion**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

Minister: Amid the countless things  
that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God,  
there stands this:

God so loves us as to bathe us with grace  
and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins.  
Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

**All: Lord God,  
while we were still slaves to sin,  
you died for our salvation.  
Yet we still worship the false gods of the world,  
forgetting that you are Lord.  
Loving worldly wealth,  
we have not loved you with our whole heart  
nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Trusting worldly strength,  
we have not trusted your word  
nor followed the Word-made-flesh.  
Forgiving by worldly norms,  
we have not shown mercy to others  
as you have shown mercy to us.  
Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name.**

Minister: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel;  
Who is in a position to condemn?

**All: Only Christ. And Christ died for us;  
Christ rose for us;  
Christ reigns in power for us;  
Christ prays for us.**

Minister: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel;

**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: God So Loved \(feat. Brent Brunson\) - Bethesda Music](#)**

Come all you weary. Come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry.  
Drink of the water. Come and thirst no more.

Come all you sinners. Come find His mercy. Come to the table He will satisfy.  
Taste of His goodness. Find what you're looking for.

For God so loved the world that He gave us. His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

Bring all your failures. Bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of  
the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well I'm walking in freedom. For  
God so loved, God so loved the world.

Praise God praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him praise Him for  
the wonders of His love. Praise God praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him praise Him for the wonders of His love.

For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.

The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well I'm walking in freedom. For  
God so loved, God so loved the world.

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting. God so loved the world.

**Children's Message: *Getting Ready to Make Our Move***

**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 Hymn: "Passover Us"**  
**by Andrew Peterson**

Well, we all remember Moses on the banks of the river. He said "Pharoah, you've got to let my people go. You don't want me to have to tell you this ten times over. Denial ain't just a river, you know."

And we all remember Pharoah, he just wouldn't do it. So the plagues came upon Egypt one by one. His heart was hard and the other nine just couldn't move it. So the last was the worst, the death of the firstborn son.

But the Lord, He gave to Moses a word for the people. He said their firstborn sons will live to see another day. "Put the blood of the lamb on the doorway and death will pass right over." That night all the children of Israel prayed.

And they prayed, "Lord, let your judgement Passover us. Lord, let your love hover near. Don't let your sweet mercy Passover us. Let this blood cover over us here."

So the years went by and the people, they whined and they wandered. And only sacrifice atoned for the sins of the land. So you see the priest, he placed upon the holy altar the body of a spotless lamb.

And he'd pray, "Lord, let your judgement Passover us. Lord, let your love hover near. Don't let your sweet mercy Passover us. Let this blood cover over us here."

Lord, let your judgement Passover us. Lord, let your love hover near. Don't let your sweet mercy Passover us. Let this blood cover over us here.

Lord, let your judgement Passover us. Lord, let your love hover near. Don't let your sweet mercy Passover us. Let this blood cover over us here. Let this blood cover over us here. Let this blood cover over us here.

**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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

### **Hymn: He Leadeth Me**

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me. By His own hand He leadeth me; His faithful  
foll'wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content,  
whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me. By His own hand He leadeth me; His faithful  
foll'wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, when by Thy grace the vict'ry's won. E'en  
death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me. By His own hand He leadeth me; His faithful  
foll'wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

He leadeth me, He leadeth me. By His own hand He leadeth me; His faithful  
foll'wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me. For by His hand He leadeth  
me.

### **Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-14, p. 51:**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD.

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**Hymn: [Passover Song by Paul Zach](#)**

### **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:**

Let us be glad in our Maker and rejoice in our King.

Let us praise God’s name with dancing and music;

let us bring to God our tithes and offerings.

Just as Jesus promised to be among us

when two or three gather in his name, O God,

be among us now

that these offerings may become instruments of  
your love and justice.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**Announcements**

## **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 149)**

Leader: Praise God and sing a new song, something just for this moment when we have been liberated from the chains that bound us to the old and broken.

**All: God is the ruler, now and always. Let's celebrate God's power over the influencers of this world, who forget the humble and the meek, the powerless and the landless. Let's sing together and hear our voices join.**

Leader: Let us join our voices together, and to hear how we sound as a single body, able to fill in and even out. Our song is so much better than even our best voices singing on their own. And so few of us are willing to just sing on our own.

**All: God takes pleasure in being with us, God brings victory to those thought too weak to fight, those too set in their ways to change even as God is changing. So let us sing together.**

Leader: God will fight with us as we demand changes, as we stand up for justice and we make sure that no one is left behind, that no one has so much that others have nothing at all.

**All: God will help us restrain those who take more than their share, who set up the systems so that those who have least have less. God will bring glory to those who will not be turned around from the future God is calling us to.**

**Everybody: Sing a new song together! 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: [Selah – I Got Saved](#)**

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



## Notes:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Psalm 149

This psalm is exceedingly problematic because, after a celebrative introduction (vv. 1-4), it combines “praise the Lord” with “pass the ammunition”:

Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
And two-edged swords in their hands. (v. 6)

After this awkward combination comes a harsh statement about executing vengeance and punishment, about binding kings in fetters and merchant-lords in iron shackles (vv. 7-9). The psalm moves from a lyrical remembering of the exodus to a powerful resolve for the conquest, for the seizure of the land of promise. No doubt this theme of land conquest is an embarrassment for us because of its implied rapacious violence.

The psalm is a stunning example of how praise engenders public policy, public resolve, and public action. In a less benign form, this psalm is not unlike the great civil rights protests in the United States in the 1960s, which began characteristically in singing and prayer and thus gained courage for public testimony.

The action envisioned is not against any general population but is precisely against kings and merchant-lords. That is, it is action aimed against those who control a social monopoly and who thereby deny and deprive others of their legitimate goods for life. The worship of the God of exodus leads to energy and imagination for the righting of social wrong rooted in monopoly and oppression. The psalm is a harsh one; it is nonetheless clear evidence, that praise is deeply and directly linked to serious and critical public policy and public practice. And if this psalm turns out to be too dangerous to sing in our more bourgeois liturgies, then we may want to consider how such liturgy becomes innocuous and cuts God off from God’s deeply rooted social intention.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995), 124-125.



## PRAYER LIST (9/10/23)

- 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, home from the hospital with an inner ear issue, without a heart attack or stroke, and for the Farwell family as they take care of her and Clarence
- For the folks in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas as Hurricane Idalia moves on through
- For Rachel, Sanjay's mother, who's in India caring for a number of family members, including Emma and Sally
- For Miriam, Sanjay's sister, recovering from Covid
- 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: Morning<sup>1</sup>**

O God of this and every morning,  
as I begin this day, call my name;  
as I step into this day, guide my feet;  
as I live this day, care for those I love;  
as I learn this day, teach me your ways.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

God of stars and planets,  
the setting sun ends this day for us  
as it rises on a new day for others.  
For us and for them, be light in every darkness.

In Jesus' 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 Reflection<sup>2</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 ...

---

<sup>1</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>2</sup> 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.

### **All Church Meeting, Sunday, September 24, 11:15am**

The Brookline Community Church will be an All Church Meeting in person on Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 11:15 am. The meeting will be preceded by our regular worship service at 10:00 am. The primary purpose of this meeting will be a review of what Rev. Merrill has learned as she has researched possible alternative for us to discern a path going forward. It will also include a faithful conversation about how we can best use the time this fall to explore what options we are most interested in pursuing.

### **Share your vision of Brookline's future!**

It's time to update Brookline's Master Plan and your input is needed. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete and will provide valuable information to the Planning Board as they work to update the Master Plan.

[The Survey is available here](#) or you can find paper copies at the Planning Department Office at Town Hall or the Library. The survey is mobile phone friendly, but works best if you hold the phone sideways.

For more information, please contact Michele Decoteau by [email](#) or by calling (603) 673-8855 x215.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dbret@charter.net)) or Marjorie ([mlapandrake@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 +/-
August	\$97,521	\$65,621	\$31,900

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.

