



*Brookline Community  
Church  
September 17, 2023  
Rev. Catherine Merrill,  
Minister*

[Photo by Willian Justen de Vasconcellos:](#)

**Prelude: *Dixie* by Daedalist Productions**

**Call To Worship, Song of Moses & Song of Miriam,  
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21, p. 54:**

Leader: 'I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

**All: The LORD is my strength and my might,  
and he has become my salvation;**

Leader: This is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

**All: The LORD is a warrior;  
the LORD is his name.**

Leader: 'Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;  
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.  
The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.

**All: Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—  
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.  
In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your  
adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.**

Leader: At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,  
the floods stood up in a heap;  
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.  
The enemy said, "I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them."

**All: You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

**'Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?**

Leader: Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

**Everybody: 'Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'**

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

**Children's Message: *What Kind of Miracle Are We Looking For?***

Hymn: [Moses Led the Crowd of Israel by DG Bible Songs](#)

Lord God has split the waters drying their ground So His people crossed them  
safe and sound He will also help me every day As He does for all who trust Him  
and who will obey

Lord God has kept His dear away from any bite Angels shut the lions mouth all  
night He will also guard me every day As He does for all who trust Him and who  
will obey

Lord God has freed His people from the slavery Broke the chains and crushed  
the enemy He will also help me every day As He does for all who trust Him and  
who will obey

Lord God is powerful, loving and He understands Wants to help and hears our  
demands He will also help you every day As He does for all who trust Him and  
who will obey

**And if we don't have a desire to jump around as much, [Awesome God  
featuring the Victory Drum Line by Brentwood Baptist Church](#)**

Our God is an awesome God He reigns from Heaven above with wisdom power  
and love our God is an awesome God (repeat)

## **A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:**

The response to “God in your mercy,” is “**hear our prayer.**”

### **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: Red Sea Road by Ellie Holcomb**

We will sing, to our souls We won’t bury our hope Where He leads us to go  
There’s a red sea road When we can’t see the way He will part the waves And  
we’ll never walk alone Down a red sea road

### **Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:19-31, pp. 53-54:**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, ‘Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.’

Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**[Hymn: See A Victory by Elevation Worship](#)**

#### **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:**

O God, we thank you for these gifts.  
Multiply them, and enable the work of love  
and the righteousness of your kingdom  
in the world.

We thank and praise you. **Amen.**

**Announcements**

## **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World**

Leader: O God who is our strength,  
you have protected us from those who would  
seek to oppress us.

**All: You have shielded us from those who would  
seek to destroy  
the good gifts you have put in us.**

Leader: Your love and power never fail.

**All: Thanks and praise to you, our safety and stronghold.**

Leader: We exalt you, O God, majestic in holiness,

**All: for there is none like you.**

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: \*Battle Hymn of the Republic\* by the United States Army Field  
Band](#)

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



## PRAYER LIST (9/17/23)

- Friends & family of Jane Jukes, Scott Higgins, Ed Krom, Ron Whitebred, Chris Crowder, Morris Nicholson, Eddy Razzaboni, Flora Kenyon, Polly Foley, Ken Perrin.
- For 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 Tim & Judy, Megan's friends, recovering from medical setbacks
- 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 Leo, Amy's son George's best friend, recovering from brain surgery
- For Sally, Nancy's friend, home from the hospital after a heart attack
- For Ginny, Barbara's cousin, recovering from knee surgery in Texas
- For Tina, Barbara's friend, aggressively treating her breast cancer
- For Haley, Candy & Tony's daughter, recovering from a number of hospital trips because of kidney stones
- For the friends and family of Rick, Nancy's cousin, who passed away from kidney cancer
- For the Pritro family, Stacey Haight's friends, where the daughter is struggling with mental illness and the dad is struggling to be her dad
- For Hannah, Linda & Bob's granddaughter, who dislocated her elbow, is in a cast, in these early days of the new school year
- For all those without power in Andover, North Andover and Lawrence.
- For Rachel, Sanjay's mother, who's in India caring for family members
- For Miriam, Sanjay's sister, recovering from Covid
- For the friends and family of Sanjay's great aunt Emma in India, may they know the love that surrounds them.
- For Chris & Kelly, Sanjay's newlywed friends, who tested positive for Covid, may they recover quickly
- For those remembering 9/11 in all the ways it changed so many lives
- For a friend, figuring out a way to pay her rent
- For Jessica, going through medical tests in search of an answer
- 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>**

Gracious and loving God, thank you for this day. Strengthen my resolve to love and show mercy throughout the day. Lead my feet to your holy dwelling place, and guide the work I have to do for today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Merciful God, thank you for keeping me in the safety of your arms and for new mercies and the glory you showed through the day. Keep my family and me through the night. I thank and praise you! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Forgiveness is a hard thing. When has someone forgiven you? Is there someone you need to forgive or ask forgiveness?

### **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 ...

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<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**

### **Thank you for all the support for the Stand down for Veterans**

It was great to be able to deliver all the items collected and all the money raised to be able to help the homeless veterans in our community.

### **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.

### **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.

