



Brookline Community Church
October 8, 2023
Rev. Catherine Merrill, Minister

[Photo by Laura Tancredi:](#)

Prelude: Psalm 19 by Jess Ray

Call To Worship, Psalm 19, p. 433:

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**All: Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**All: Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

**All: More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Leader: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**All: But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

Leader: Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

**All: Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

**Everyone: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

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

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, p. 58

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, 'You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.' Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.'

Children's Message: *What was that about honoring father and mother?*

Hymn: [The Ten Commandments by Dita Anggraini](#)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments.

1. God First
2. No Idols
3. Don't Misuse God's Name
4. Worship and Rest
5. Honor Your Parents

This will bring God Fame!

When you keep the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments.

6. No Murder
7. No Adultery
8. Don't Steal
9. Don't Lie
10. Don't Covet

Now I know you're gonna love it, by God's grace you're gonna fly... When you keep the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments. and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments.

1. God First
2. No Idols
3. Don't Misuse God's Name

4. Worship and Rest
5. Honor Your Parents
6. No Murder
7. No Adultery
8. Don't Steal
9. Don't Lie
10. Don't Covet

This will bring God fame! When you keep the... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Ten Commandments. You'll discover how to love God and each other, if you keep the Ten Commandments. If you keep the ten commandments. If you keep the ten commandments.

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

The response to "you are the Lord our God," is "**who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**"

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: Trust and Obey by the Vagle Brothers

When we walk with the Lord, in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love, until all on the altar we lay; for the favor he shows, and the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Sacrament of Communion

Prayer of Confession

Minister: Let us boldly confess our sin
before the One who already knows our errors
and is gracious to forgive our hidden faults.

**All: Rescuing God,
you brought us out of the land of captivity,
out of the house of slavery.**

**Forgive us when we willingly return to slavery,
making divine the machine of production,
crafting idols from the excess of consumption.**

**Forgive us when we consider ourselves so grand
that we do not rest and enjoy your presence,
defining ourselves by our ability rather than your love.**

**Forgive us when we esteem ourselves so little
that we dare not rest and sit with ourselves, exposed,
without the cloak of productivity.**

**Forgive us when we deem our species so central
that we do not rest and halt consumption,
decimating Earth,
denying her Sabbath and integrity.**

**Forgive us through Christ,
who redeems us from the brokenness of slavery
that we might enjoy your presence, creation,
and community. Amen.**

Minister: Righteousness does not come from our own
doing or not doing.

Righteousness comes from God, by faith.

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: Behold What Manner of Love by the Maranatha Singers](#)

Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us,

Behold what manner of love
The Father has given unto us,

That we should be called the sons of God,
that we should be called the sons of God

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19:4-6, p. 57

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

Standing for Stewardship: John Panto

[Hymn: Wisdom Song by Laura Woodley Osman](#)

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:**

**Without Christ,
all that we have is nothing.
With Christ,
all that we have is everything.
Let us offer all that we have
to the Lord.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 78)

Leader: Day hands over to day, night to night, the song of creation never ceasing, in leaf rustle and bird call and starry silence,

All: God's love is heard everywhere, and we rush to greet it, like an athlete in top form.

Leader: God's law gives us guidance on how to keep hearing and sharing God's love in this world,

All: God gives us wisdom, clarity, purity, truth, golden and sweet, so our souls revive, our hearts rejoice,

Leader: God steers us away from hidden faults, gives us a way to escape the cynical, helps us identify the pitfalls the world throws in our way. And so we pray,

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

Leader: 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: The God of the Impossible by Lincoln Brewster](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 19

Psalm 19 begins with praise of the creator. In an age of ever-increasing technology in the Western world, the attitude of many is how to exploit nature for human convenience. The militant consumerism of contemporary society feeds off of that attitude. The psalm imagines the world as a divine creation and so suggests the question of how humans can best be stewards of this gift.

In the poetic imagination of this psalm, both creator and creation relate to humans. The poetic movement is from the creation, to divine instruction, to a concluding petition. Women and men are created to be part of God's creation and not independent from it. With the sequence of creation-*torah*-petition, the poetic model suggests that readers live in response to divine direction. Poetic meditation on divine instruction leads to prayer.

The poetic model is not unlike the narrative in Genesis 2-3 in which God creates humanity and provides instruction. The human response is of considerable consequence. The divine instruction purposes life, healthy community life in hope. In that sense, *torah* is a delightful gift, part of the creator's provision for full living.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms*, in *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 100-103.



PRAYER LIST (10/8/23)

- 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, Megan's friend, 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 the friends and family of Leo, Amy's son George's best friend, who passed away after a tough recovery from an accident
- For Tina, Barbara's friend, aggressively treating her breast cancer
- For a friend, figuring out a way to pay her rent
- For Dave Hoffman, recovering heart surgery on Thursday
- For Deb, Marjorie's relative, entering hospice care, may they ease her passing
- For Candy, looking for a diagnosis and a quick recovery from abdominal surgery
- 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

Faithful God, you remain when others forsake. When I am tempted to abandon myself today, help me to stay present to this moment, that I may know and do your will. Through the Creator who enfolds me, Christ who defends me, and the Spirit who never abandons me. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Mothering God, bring me back from today's distractions to the stillness of your presence, that I may rest in your enfolding arms. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What has been holding you captive? What would you lose if you claimed Sabbath rest? What would you gain?

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

October 6: Take Home Meal: Mexican Lasagna, ¡Olé!

Let Megan (kingmegan7@gmail.com) know if you're interested in reserving a meal or if you want contribute to the ingredients.

Last day to change voter registration before Presidential Primary is Oct. 6

New registrations, party changes and other corrections may be made at this session of the Brookline Supervisors of the Checklist.

October 6, 2023, is the last day that registered voters may change their party affiliation prior to the Presidential Primary.

For more information, [click here](#).

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!

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. There's a sign up sheet in the Social Hall!

Senior Luncheon, Oct. 28

If you're interested in helping out, contact Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com). Or just joining our seniors for some great conversation and a great meal, please come to the Social Hall at 11:30am

Holiday Cards for the Military due back by Oct. 31

We are again joining the effort to send holiday cards to all five branches of the military. Rules for what to include and more advice and suggestions as well as a generous supply of cards are in the Social Hall.

Faith Formation: A Way to Deepen Your Connection with God: Nov. 5, 8:30a

We will be offering faith formation sessions once a month. In addition to the activities designed for the kids, we'll be offering a separate track of reflections on Christian Faith Practices for the adults.

We meet at 8:30am on Sunday mornings: 11/5, 12/10 (moving from 12/3 because the Christmas Faire is later that day), 1/7, 2/4, 3/3, 4/14 (moving from 4/7 because I usually take the Sunday after Easter off), 5/5, 6/2

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!

The signup sheets for the donations we're looking for are available. We're hoping to have all the donations in by mid-October so we can take photos and begin spreading the word! Speak with Donna (dbret@charter.net) or Marjorie (mlapandrade@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.

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 +/-
September	\$102,357	\$73,874	\$28,483

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.

Brookline Community Church

2023 Pledge

Where is Brookline Community Church headed?

- Continue turning our faith into actions that benefit our community
- Deepen our faith through ministry, witness, and shared learning experiences
- Share the fellowship bubbling up among us more broadly within and without
- Learn and practice invitation in traditional and unexpected ways

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: (____) _____-_____

Street Address: _____

Financial Support:

In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries, I plan to give:

\$_____ each week / month / other _____ (please circle one)

or \$_____ as a one-time gift

I understand that this is an estimate of my ability to give and that if circumstances change, I can put a note in the offering plate or contact the Treasurer to adjust my pledge.

Please return your completed pledge form by Nov 12th, in the offering plate or by mail to:



Brookline Community Church
Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 507
Brookline, NH 03033



Fall is already upon us and the Holidays are just around the corner! Families are continuing to struggle with the rising costs of food, rent, utilities and this time of year can become very stressful. Please help us lift some of the burden off of those in need.

For the month of October, Outreach will be collecting food items and paper products to benefit the Brookline Food Pantry and Share of Milford, who also supports our Brookline Community.

See the list below of the most needed items in preparation for the Holiday Season:

Butter

Holiday food-stuffing, gravy etc.

Canned Vegetables

Spaghetti sauce

Canned Whole Tomatoes (not diced)

Pasta

Salad dressing

Rice boxes-pilaf, Spanish rice

Flour & sugar

Salt, Pepper and spices

Paper Towels

Kleenex

These items can be brought to the church and placed in the outside bin by the side door, in the basket in the front hall or dropped off during Take Home Meal on Friday, Oct 6th from 1:00-5:00.

If you would like to make a monetary donation you can mail a check to the Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline NH 03033 and note the check is for the October Food Drive.

Contact Amy Razzaboni at 603-801-9210 or arazz3914@gmail.com with any questions

Thank You,

Outreach Board

Brookline Community Church