



*Brookline Community Church*  
*November 12, 2023*  
*Rev. Catherine A. Merrill*

[Photo by Maddy Freddie:](#)

**Prelude: Psalm 78 by Poor Bishop Hooper**

**Call To Worship, Psalm 78:1-7, p. 468**

A Maskil of Asaph.

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**All: I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.**

Leader: We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

**All: He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;**

Leader: that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,  
so that they should set their hope in God,

**All: and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;**

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

**Children's Message: *How can we steward a story?***

**Hymn: [Let's Praise the Lord by LifeKids](#)**

Call	Response
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah	Let's praise the Lord
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah	Let's praise the Lord,
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	Hallelujah
Let's praise the Lord	

Or if we don't feel like jumping around as much

**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.

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

The response to "Eternal God," 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.]

## **Sacrament of Communion**

### **Prayer of Confession**

Minister: Our hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus and his righteousness.  
Trusting in the mercy of God,  
let us confess our sin  
that we might find forgiveness  
and new life in Christ.

**All: Holy and gracious God,  
you are all light and wonder and glory.  
You are our strength and our delight;  
you give us all we need to live.  
Yet we are distracted by all that glitters,  
continually grasping for more.  
Rather than trust in your provision,  
we chase after our own happiness.  
Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you.  
Overwhelm us with your goodness  
and cover us with grace,  
for we know that you are the source of life,  
the fount of all that is good.  
In the name of Jesus we pray.**

Minister: Hear the good news:  
Nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
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: 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.

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13, pp. 806-807**

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)**

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**Standing for Stewardship**

**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:**

**Gracious God, receive our gifts,  
tokens of thanks for your extravagant blessings,  
signs of trust in your coming reign  
of justice, peace, and love;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Announcements**

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

Leader: Listen up, because God acts on our behalf in truly amazing ways, that we really, really don't deserve.

**All: Let's tell those stories of rescue and salvation, tell them in ways that catch our attention and change our minds. Let's tell those stories about food from heaven and seas parted, because our ancestors couldn't believe it either.**

Leader: Let's tell our children about when God stood between us and destruction, between our enemies ready to bring us down, and the mindless bureaucracies ready to roll over everyone who didn't fit in their paperwork.

**All: God has been on our side since the beginning, since we were only a single family who could fit in one tent. We didn't pay strict attention back then, like we don't pay it now, but God still stuck with us, urged us to teach our children what faithful living looks like.**

Leader: Because faithful living, remembering how impossible it is that God loves us as much as God does, is how we remain hopeful in the face of all the world, determined to strip everyone of hope. For ourselves and our children and the children yet to come.

**All: Faith and hope and love make it so much easier to remember, to turn away from our own faithlessness and to keep God's commandments,**

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.*







## PRAYER LIST (11/12/23)

- 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 the friends and family of Leo, Amy's son George's best friend, who passed away after a tough recovery from an accident
- For a friend, figuring out a way to pay her rent
- For a family in transition
- For Dave Hoffman, recovering heart surgery
- For Deb, Marjorie's relative, entering hospice care, may they ease her passing
- For Olivia, a twelve-year-old friend of Jessica, having meniscus surgery
- For Zane, Jessica's relative, holding his own off life support in Knoxville, as they look for a more suitable trauma center in Atlanta
- For Buddy, a long time resident of Brookline, and all those who are supporting him as he copes with cancer.
- For Mona & Brian, mourning their mother Lois, Amy's aunt, when the family gathered to lay Lois to rest
- For John Lee's newly discovered step-mother, who's been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, may her treatments bring her relief
- For grandparents who are trying to put their families' lives back together, when their children can no longer take care of their grandchildren
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, may they find a way forward
- 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>**

Almighty God, give me the mind of Christ:  
drive away any selfish ambition,  
fill me with compassion and love,  
and make me a humble servant,  
that all I do and all I desire may be pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Lord, in my accomplishments this day, make me humble; for my failures, give me consolation. In your steadfast love, uphold me, and for my sins, forgive me, that I may know your mercy and walk in the way of your salvation. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

How would it change your life if you were to wait expectantly for the return of Christ?

### **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**

### **The Christmas Raffle is Live!**

You can now buy tickets and take a peek at the raffle baskets. Check out [our website](#) and let your friends know!

### **Decorating the Church for Christmas: We could use a hand!**

Especially for the outdoor lights and décor, we could use some volunteers. See Susan or Amy for more details

### **Faith Formation: Deepen Your Connection with God: Dec. 10, 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: 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

### **Email Scams may appear to come from the church!**

You may get an email that appears to come from the church or Rev. Cath asking for money or gift cards. We won't ever do that, so you can ignore them. The scammers haven't necessarily infected our computers, and we keep up with our anti-viral software. Unfortunately, mean people make it difficult for all of us.

### **Brookline Senior Citizen Active Walking Program details for 2023-2024**

The Hampshire Dome is open for seniors to walk during the winter. For more details, [click here](#).

### **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!

### **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 there's anyone who could use some help from the Food Pantry, please let 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 +/-
October	\$111,505	\$81,663	\$29,842

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.

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### 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