



*Brookline Community Church
November 19, 2023
Rev. Catherine A. Merrill*

[Photo by Keegan Everitt:](#)

[Prelude: To You, I Lift Up My Eyes \(Psalm 123\) by Vocal Tapestry](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 123, p. 498

A Song of Ascents.

Leader: To you I lift up my eyes,

All: O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

Leader: As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,

**All: as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,**

Leader: so our eyes look to the Lord our God,

All: until he has mercy upon us.

Leader: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,

All: for we have had more than enough of contempt.

Leader: Our soul has had more than its fill

**All: of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.**

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

Children's Message: *How do you unstick a sticky problem?*

Hymn: *Simple Gifts* by Carnegie Hall – The Orchestra Sings

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free,
Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
It will be in the valley of love and delight
When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be shamed,
To turn, turn, it will be our delight,
'til by turning, turning, we come 'round right.

Or if we're in a more grown up mood

Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God* by Nathan Drake

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices
Who from our Mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today

O may this bounteous God, through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us
To keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills, of this world in the next

All praise and thanks to God, the Father now be given
The Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore
For thus it was is now, and shall be evermore

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: *We Gather Together* by Eduard Kremser

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own

We all do extol You, Our Leader triumphant,
and pray that You still our Defender will be;
Let Your congregation escape tribulation;
Your Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Scripture Reading: Judges 4:1-7, pp. 191-192

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."' '

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: *If the Lord Had Not Been on Our Side* by Maranatha! Music

If the Lord had not been on our side,
all our enemies would have swallowed us alive.

If the Lord had not been on our side,
all the raging waters, and the mighty flood would have swept over us
If the Lord, if the Lord, if the Lord had not been on our side

If the Lord had not been on our side,
all our enemies would have swallowed us alive.

If the Lord had not been on our side,
all the raging waters, and the mighty flood would have swept over us
If the Lord, if the Lord, if the Lord had not been on our side

Blessed be the Lord! Blessed be the Lord who has not given us up, the Lord who
is our help, Maker of heaven and earth

Blessed be the Lord! Blessed be the Lord who has not given us up, the Lord who
is our help, Maker of heaven and earth

If the Lord had not been on our side,
all our enemies would have swallowed us alive.

If the Lord had not been on our side,
all the raging waters and the mighty flood would have swept over us
If the Lord, if the Lord, if the Lord had not been on our side

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:**

For all that you are and all that you do,

we give you thanks,

our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We wait in hope for the coming of your realm

and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth;

in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 123)

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, we look to you, O God of mercy and grace,

All: Turn us around, so we offer that same mercy to anyone we meet, especially those who face the contempt of the world.

Leader: When we are the ones at ease, help us to look at others the same way we look to you,

All: Help us to look with awe, without suspicion, fear, dread or resentment.

Leader: Our need is urgent, we want to be free of demeaning relationships,

All: We want to be people of hope, living in a world that revolves around mercy, not one driven by contempt.

Leader: In this coming week when it will be so easy to reach for power in our relationships,

All: Help us to look to you, and to offer mercy to those around us.

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: The Thanksgiving Song by Ben Rector](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (11/19/23)

- 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 the friends and family of Deb, Marjorie's relative, may they know the love that surrounds them
- For Olivia, a twelve-year-old friend of Jessica, having meniscus surgery
- For Zane, Jessica's friend, who's continuing to recover from his accident
- For Buddy, a long time resident of Brookline, and all those who are supporting him as he copes with cancer.
- 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 Tina, Barbara's friend, facing more chemotherapy after cancer surgery
- For the friends and family of James, Donna's dad, may they know the love that surrounds them
- 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: Morning¹

Good morning, Lord. I welcome the new day, for it is a gift from you. My petty fears are nothing in the face of your love; in the warmth of your wisdom my anxieties melt away. Make me more faithful than I could be on my own, and use me to reflect your light, for there are so many who need to know of your grace. Walk with me, and show me your way, for I would follow you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good evening, Lord. Thank you for bringing me through this day, its trials and its joys. You surprise me with wonder and overwhelm me with love. Keep me in your embrace tonight; inhabit my dreams. If you choose to grant me another day of life, awaken me as one who is eager to serve you well. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

If we believe in the kingdom to come, we need not fear, in life or in death. How does that change the way we live?

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

Thank you for your support on our food pantry drive!

For our October food drive we collected 165 items & \$100 in monetary donations for the Brookline Food Pantry and Share.



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!

Christmas Faire is more than a gorgeous raffle

- **Take Home Meal: Chicken Pot Pie!** Let Megan (kingmegan7@gmail.com) know if you want to order or contribute ingredients!
- **Christmas Cookies: \$7 for 12.** Let Megan (kingmegan7@gmail.com) know if you want to order or contribute cookies to the church by December 1.
- **Soup & Chilis To Go:** Let Ann (desrochers.ann@gmail.com) know if you can donate soup, chili or help with set up or clean up

SHARE Wreath Gifts Due by Dec 10:

The wreath is up, with ornaments identifying the kids and what they're hoping to get. Please have your unwrapped gifts back by Dec. 10. The guidelines for participating are in an envelope next to the wreath and below.

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

Gently Used Winter Clothes can find a good next home

If you have any gently used winter clothes, let Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com) know. She'll find a good home for them.

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 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



Gifts for *SHARE*



This Christmas our church will be helping to make the holiday merrier for area families by participating in the SHARE gift-giving project. We have adopted six children in two families this year.

Instructions for gift giving:

- Choose a colored tag (or more) from the wreath located in the lower front entryway of the church.
- Purchase the requested gift or an appropriate substitute.
- Provide Gift Receipts if possible
- Do not wrap the gifts for children. You may put the gift in a gift bag. Attach colored tag (from the wreath) to the gift. Attach Christmas gift tag with first name of child and family # on it.
- GIFT WRAP AND GIFT BAGS MAY BE DONATED ALSO.
- If you must substitute a specific gift request, please try to stay with the type of gift requested. Please be sure to return a gift for each ornament taken. If you find that you cannot buy an intended gift, return the ornament as soon as possible.
- Please bring the gift to church on or before Sun., Dec. 10th.

The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 10th

Gift cards to Walmart, Target, Amazon and/or supermarkets are also appreciated!!

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.

