



Photo by LT Chan:

**Prelude: My Soul Magnifies the Lord by Highpoint Collective**

**Call To Worship, The Magnificat, Luke 1:46b-55, pp. 831-832**

- Leader: 'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
**All: for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**
- Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
**All: He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**
- Leader: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
**All: he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.**
- Leader: He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
**All: according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'**

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

## **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is shaped in a ring. It shows the circle of God's unbroken love. Each week we will invite a family to light the candles in the wreath to bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

Lighter 1: The Gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:  
In the fifteenth year  
of the reign of Emperor Tiberias, ...  
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah ... .  
He went into all the region around the Jordan,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins. (*Luke 3:1-3*)

Lighter 2: God comes to us through particular people,  
in particular places and times  
in the past, and here and now.  
Our second candle reminds us  
to look for the light of God  
in God's messengers today.  
  
(Light the first & second purple candles)

Lighter 1: Living Christ, give us faith to trust you  
And hope to follow you.

**All: We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.**

### **Hymn: Advent Song, Week 2**

Light the Advent candle two,  
Think of humble shepherds who;  
Filled with wonder at the sight,  
Of the child on Christmas night.

#### **Refrain:**

Candle, candle burning bright,  
Shining in the cold winter night;  
Candle, candle burning bright,  
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

## **Reflection on the First Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15, p. 12**

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?' The Lord said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, and say, "Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.' But Sarah denied, saying, 'I did not laugh'; for she was afraid. He said, 'Oh yes, you did laugh.'

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

**[Hymn: Mary's Song by Kyra Pantall](#)**

O my soul  
Magnifies the Lord, my God  
For He has done great things for me  
My spirit sings his praise

O my soul  
Magnifies the Lord, my God  
For He has done great things for me  
My spirit sings his praise

O holy night  
The stars are brightly shining down  
Upon this humble stable bed  
The promised Savior lives

Silent night, Holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

What child is this  
Now sleeping still upon my chest  
His tiny heart beats hope for men  
What wondrous love is this

O my soul  
Magnifies the Lord, my God  
For He has done great things for me  
My spirit sings his praise (*repeat*)

### **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.]

### **Reflection on the Second Scripture: Exodus 15:20-21, p. 54**

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:

'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

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

**Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice by Chet Valley Churches**

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!  
My soul rejoices in the Lord!

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God,  
My Saviour;  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in my God.

*Repeat*

**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:**

**Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ  
your steadfast love and faithfulness have met  
and your righteousness and peace have kissed.**

**May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need  
and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Reflection on the Third Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55, pp. 831-832**

[The Magnificat, which we read as the Call to Worship]

Let’s hear it as a song [\*\*Mary’s Song \(Magnificat\) by Calvin Institute of Christian Worship\*\*](#)

Hymn: *Light of the World* by We the Kingdom

Light of the world  
Treasure of Heaven  
Brilliant like the stars  
In the wintery sky  
Joy of the Father  
Reach through the darkness  
Shine across the earth  
Send the shadows to flight

Light of the World  
From the beginning  
The tragedies of time  
Were no match for Your love  
From great heights of glory  
You saw my story  
God, You entered in  
And became one of us

Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah  
For the things He has done  
Come and adore Him  
Bow down before Him  
Sing Hallelujah  
To the Light of the World

Light of the world  
Crown in a manger  
Born for the Cross  
To suffer, to save  
High King of Heaven  
Death is the poorer  
We are the richer  
By the price that He paid

Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah  
For the things He has done  
Come and adore Him  
Bow down before Him

Sing Hallelujah  
To the Light of the World  
Light of the World  
Soon will be coming  
With fire in His eyes  
He will ransom His own  
Through clouds He will lead us  
Straight into glory  
And there He shall reign  
Forevermore Forevermore

Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah  
Sing Hallelujah  
For the things He has done  
Come and adore Him  
Bow down before Him  
Sing Hallelujah  
To the Light of the World

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

Leader: The Promised One of God brings good news  
to the oppressed  
and binds up the brokenhearted.

**All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

Leader: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty  
to captives and release to prisoners.

**All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

Leader: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn  
and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

**All: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing,  
holding fast to what is good,  
we are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

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: Breath of Heaven by Amy Grant**

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



## PRAYER LIST (12/10/23)

- Friends & family of 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 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 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 Warren, George Razzaboni's relative, diagnosed with lung cancer
- For Wznadine, leaving the Compassion International program
- For Madge, Megan's friend, whose mother passed away. May she know the love that surrounds her.
- For all those who are grieving during the holidays, especially when the loss was years ago
- For Bob, Jill's uncle, who is entering hospice
- For Natalie, Marjorie's sister-in-law, recovering in the ICU after her third heart attack.
- For the friends and family of Clayton, Marjorie's nephew and Natalie's son, who died in a motorcycle accident. May they know the love that surrounds them.
- For Alison, Susan's friend, whose breast cancer has returned at Stage 4.
- 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>**

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day and rescued me from my exile. Where I have flourished, I give you thanks; where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness. Protect me through the night that I may rest in your realm of peace where righteousness makes a home. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

The prophet Isaiah announces good news: God comforts and strengthens a wearied and exiled people in preparation for their homeward journey. Mark's Gospel announces the good news of God in Jesus Christ: God comes to turn the world right side up and baptize us with the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, what is the beginning of God's good news in your life, and how will it change the way you approach this season of expectation and hope?

### **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**

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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](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 +/-
November	\$116,035	\$91,374	\$24,661

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.





## 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. 10<sup>th</sup>.

**The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 10th**  
**Gift cards to Walmart, Target, Amazon and/or**  
**supermarkets are also appreciated!!**



## Poinsettias

This year, the Deacons will be donating a small number of Christmas flowers to help decorate the sanctuary.

Please fill out the form below and give it to a Deacon (Russell H, Barbara HH, John P, Candy T, Jill A), or email your dedication to Candy at [secretary@bccnh.org](mailto:secretary@bccnh.org). We will include your dedication in the Christmas Eve bulletin, as we have done in past years.

Dedication deadline: Sunday, December 17th.

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

and/or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Merry Christmas!  
Thank you!