



Brookline Community Church
February 11, 2024 Rev. Catherine A. Merrill

[Photo by Sophie Cambridge:](#)

Prelude: Psalm 50 by Koine

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalm 50:1-6, p. 451

A Psalm of Asaph.

Leader: The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**All: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.**

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

**All: He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
'Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'**

Leader: The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.
Selah

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:3-8, *The Message*

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus.

Peter interrupted, “Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let’s build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah.” He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing.

Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him.”

The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

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

[Hymn: Climb, Climb Up Sunshine Mountain, a Twin Sisters Song](#)

Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, heavenly breezes blow. Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, faces all aglow. Turn, turn your face from doubting, look up in the sky. Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, you and I.

Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, heavenly breezes blow. Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, faces all aglow. Turn, turn your face from doubting, look up in the sky. Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, you and I. Climb, climb up sunshine mountain, you and I.

Children’s Message: *Can we stay on the mountain top?*

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: *Jesus, Light of the World* by Third Day

The most beautiful night of the year
all the stars light up the sky
And the city is sparkling with silver and gold
from a million points of light
A reflection of something that's deeper within
Just a flicker of something more

Jesus Light of the World
shine through the darkness bright as the day
Jesus Light of the World
shine in our hearts show us the way tonight

Who is this Child in a manger
kings bow down and angels sing
The Lord of the Universe has come here to save us
A precious offering
All the heavens above and the earth below
are filled with the light of Your love

Jesus Light of the World
shine through the darkness bright as the day
Jesus Light of the World
shine in our hearts show us the way tonight

Jesus Light of the World
shine through the darkness bright as the day
Jesus Light of the World
shine in our hearts show us the way yeah

Jesus shine shine
Show us the way
Light of the world
Shine our hearts show us the way tonight

Sacrament of Communion

Prayer of Confession

Minister: God alone is righteous;
God alone is perfect;
God alone is judge.
Yet this holy, righteous God
comes to us in love, to save us.
Rejoicing in God's grace,
let us confess our sin.

**All: God of all glory, beauty, and grace,
we have tried to hide from you—
to hide our faces, to hide our sin—
yet you have never hidden your love for us.
We have tried to search for you—
in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—
yet you have already revealed yourself to us
in the face of Jesus Christ.
Forgive us, and transform us
so that our lives may shine
with your glory, beauty, and grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Minister: Our God comes and does not keep silence;
God speaks to us with grace and love,
saying: You are my beloved child.
This is 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: *Be Present at Our Table, Lord* by Bible Study Fellowship

Be present at our table, Lord
Be here and everywhere adored
Thy creatures bless and grant that we
May feast in fellowship with thee

We thank thee Lord for this our food
for life and health and every good
By thine own hand may we be fed
Give us each day our daily bread

Amen

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, p. 939

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: *The Feast of the Transfiguration, Doxastikon from Orthros (Tone 8)* by Orthodox Christian Chants

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, we give you thanks
for the light of love around us
and the fire of faith within us.**

**As our gifts go forth from this place
let our lives reflect the One
who is the image of your glory:
Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 50)

Leader: God is in charge. We may think we are. But God is in charge.

All: God is perfect. We may think we are. But God is the only perfect thing in all the universe.

Leader: When God made the first covenant with us on Mount Sinai, there was fire and storm and so much power. We were awed. And we finally understood about the fear of God.

All: Heaven and earth are witnesses. God judges us, especially when we try to mail in our worship.

Leader: God is the only one who gets to judge us, and God judges us with love. God asks us to bring our authentic selves into worship.

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: Go Light Your World by Chris Rice](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 50

Verses 1-6 appear to be a stylized description of a majestic overpowering coming of God in his royal splendor. The meeting concerns the serious and disappointed expectation Yahweh has for his covenant partner, us.

Verses 7-15 is one of the most exalted statements we have of God's "Godness." This God has no need to be fed by our action in worship. In verses 14-15 we are told what is proper. First, it is acceptable that there will be offerings and sacrifices. Second, in a right relation with God we do not treat God as an equal or as a needy, hungry partner, but rather call upon God and know that God is ready to save. So it is *call* and *save* that shapes the faith. The alternative that is rejected is *need* and *feed*. The peculiar and decisive initiative of God is compromised in a tendency to reduce this relation to an equality in which each party does some gracious service for the other.

The final section of the poem, verses 16-23, is a special harsh word to the wicked, likely those who presume excessively upon God and do not recognize the qualitative difference in God which has just been asserted.

In verse 21 we are given the clue to the entire argument. We are told now why the warning of verses 7-15 is so sharp and why the loose conduct of verses 18-20 could happen, "You thought that I was one like yourself." We had judged God by the same criteria with which we judged ourselves. This is not so much an elevation of humankind as it is a minimization of God. When the first tablet of the commandments is not taken seriously, it is certain that the second table of neighbor relations will lose its power and its compelling authority.

The last verse assures us that there is a right path. It is thanksgiving, acknowledgment that God transforms life.

Adapted from Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 89-91.



PRAYER LIST (2/11/24)

- Friends & family of Polly Foley, Ken Perrin, Alice Krom, Dave Flannery.
- For Dave Joki, member of the Brookline Fire Department, 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 Kevin, Kevin's dad, who's facing some medical issues
- For a friend, figuring out a way to pay her rent
- For a family in transition
- For Terry, Kym's friend, recovering from a double lung transplant as well as post-surgical complications
- For Ken, Ann's dad, facing complicated diagnosis and treatment
- For John, recovering from foot surgery
- For Susan, John Nicholson's mom, home after a stay in the hospital, but heading back there for more procedures.
- For the friends and family of Jon Kibby, Russel's high school classmate
- For the friends and family of Bobby, Jill's uncle, may they know the love that surrounds them
- For Natalie, Marjorie's sister-in-law, recovering from her third heart attack.
- For Alison, Susan's friend, whose breast cancer has returned at Stage 4.
- For Kim, Amy's friend, recovering from a liver transplant
- For the friends and family of Marc Searles, a long time member of this church
- For Warren, George Razzaboni's brother, entering chemo
- For Alec, Marjorie's cousin, starting a new round of chemo
- For Jack in Alaska, whose leg was amputated this week
- 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

Transfiguration Household Prayer: Morning¹

God of glory, I greet you at the dawning of this day. Let my life proclaim Christ Jesus and the good news of the gospel from the rising of the sun to its setting; to the glory of your name. Amen.

Transfiguration Household Prayer: Evening

God of glory, I greet you at the ending of this day. Overshadow me with your peace so that I may rest in your presence from the setting of the sun to its rising; to the glory of your name. Amen.

Transfiguration Questions for Reflection

Warned in a dream of Herod's evil intentions, the magi "left for their own country by another road." What could it mean for you to take "another road" as the church concludes the celebrations of the Christmas season?

Ash Wednesday Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, help me be your disciple today. If I receive rebuke from anyone, let me suffer it with grace. If I receive commendation, let me accept it without vanity. Strengthen my hope in the treasure that endures, that I may know with you the joy of heaven. Amen.

Ash Wednesday Household Prayer: Evening

O God, my heart has been stained with the sin of this world; my spirit is weary and my joy has grown dim. With the psalmist I pray: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Amen.

Ash Wednesday Question for Reflection

In today's Gospel reading from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches his disciples to do acts of piety in secret (Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21). However, in an earlier part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructs his disciples, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). How do you manage this paradox in 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.

Announcements

Shaking Hands in Worship starting Feb. 11

We've had some requests to start shaking hands again in worship. We plan to start on February 11. Let Rev. Cath know if you have any concerns.

Faith Formation: Deepen Your Connection with God: Mar. 3, 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: 3/3, 4/14 (moving from 4/7 because I usually take the Sunday after Easter off), 5/5, 6/2

Brookline Town Meeting, Voting Mar. 12, Business Meeting Mar. 13 & 14

All day voting for town and school elected positions, zoning and other matters will be done on Tuesday, March 12th from 7am-7:30pm at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy (24 Townsend Hill Road).

The evening business portion of the annual town meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, March 13th and Thursday, March 14th; also held at Captain Samuel Douglass Academy. Snow date is Friday, March 15th.

[Click here](#) for more info.

Senior Luncheon, Mar. 16 Corned Beef & Cabbage

It wouldn't be St. Patrick's Day without a Senior Luncheon! See Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com) if you have questions or can help out.

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.

Unfortunately, mean people make it difficult for all of us.

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

The church's financial obligations continue.

BCC-YTD Financial Summary	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs Expenses + / -
January	\$5,054	\$10,461	(\$5,406)

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.

