



[Photo by Kuntal Biswas:](#)

Prelude: Psalm 19 by Jess Ray

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalm 19

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 \(Danish\)](#)

Children's Message: *When is it time to clean house?*

Hymn: [This is the Day that the Lord Has Made](#)

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made
I will rejoice, I will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made (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 or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

Hymn: Seek Ye First by Marantha! Music

Seek Ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Seek Ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Sacrament of Communion

Prayer of Confession

Minister: Despite all that God has taught us,
we still act foolishly;
we are still weak.
In the cross of Christ,
we find forgiveness and grace.

We confess our sins,
trusting in God's wisdom and strength
rather than our own.

**All: Merciful God,
how fickle we are; we sin against you
without even knowing it.**

**Clear us, we pray, of any unknown sin,
and save us from willfully ignoring your way.
Let your commandments rule and guide us.
Forgive us for worshiping anyone or anything
except you;
keep us faithful.**

**Forgive us for failing to honor all
our relationships—
with those closest to us and those
who are distant neighbors.**

**Help us to speak words of blessing
and kindness,
rather than words that belittle or destroy.
Turn us away from violence, falsehood,
and selfishness.**

**Forgive us for thinking everything depends
on our efforts and power,
for you are the God who made us,
led us out slavery,
and has brought us into the community of faith.**

**Help us to depend on you alone
and to rest in your peace.**

Minister: Brothers and sisters,
in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again,
we are forgiven and set free to live in faithfulness
with God and with one another!
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: *I Run to Christ* by Church Works Media

I run to Christ when chased by fear
And find a refuge sure
“Believe in me,” His voice I hear
His words and wounds secure
I run to Christ when torn by grief
And find abundant peace
“I, too, had tears,” He gently speaks
Thus joy and sorrow meet

I run to Christ when worn by life
And find my soul refreshed
“Come unto me,” He calls through strife
Fatigue gives way to rest
I run to Christ when vexed by hell
And find a mighty arm
“The Devil flees,” the Scriptures tell
He roars but cannot harm

I run to Christ when stalked by sin
And find a sure escape
“Deliver me,” I cry to Him
Temptation yields to grace
I run to Christ when plagued by shame
And find my one defense
“I bore God’s wrath” He pleads my case
My Advocate and Friend
“I bore God’s wrath” He pleads my case
My Advocate and Friend

Scripture Reading: John 2:13-22, p. 863

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!’ His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’ The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’

The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

[Hymn: Turn the Tables by Caroline Cobb](#)

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:**

**The house of God is not a marketplace for
buying and selling.**

**It is a house of prayer,
a place of healing and restoration,
a place where we bring before God our provisions.
to be used for present needs.**

**Accept these offerings, we pray,
and teach us to be generous,
giving fully of ourselves
that we may truly be the body of Christ in this world. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 19)

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: Cleansed by Charity Gayle

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 (3/3/24)

- Friends & family of Ken Perrin, Alice Krom, Dave Flannery, Marc Searles.
- 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, hopefully headed home soon.
- 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 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 Warren, George Razzaboni's brother, entering chemo
- For Alex, Marjorie's friend, starting a new round of chemo
- For Tom Dwyer, a member of the church, deeply missed and still beloved, ten years after his passing.
- For Lori, Amy's sister-in-law, who is still in the hospital, looking for a diagnosis
- For Jimmy, Candy's brother-in-law, who's having more tests for cancer
- 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

God of heaven and earth, I listen this morning for the sound of your glory:
in the songs of birds,
in quiet conversations that begin the day,
in easy laughter among friends,
in sunlight's warmth, pattering rain, or silent snowfall.

Give me ears to hear your glory in its many forms. Give me eyes to see your glory in its many guises.

Throughout this day, I, too, will proclaim your glory, your grace, and your love so that I may be a part of the chorus of praise that stretches to the ends of the earth. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of freedom, I thank you for claiming me as your own and for setting me in the midst of the community of faith. Today the news was filled with stories of people who do not live according to your commandments, with grievous results. Lives are shattered as your ancient tablets of stone are broken again and again. And I struggle, too, in my own ways, to live before you and my neighbors in faithfulness, generosity, and love.

As the day comes to an end, I pray for forgiveness for myself and for this weary world, confident of your grace and mercy. Send your gift of Sabbath rest, and let me sleep in peace as, over and around me, night declares to night your power and glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

The third Sunday of Lent focuses on the gift of God's law (Exod. 20:1–17). John Calvin (1509–1564) described three uses for the Ten Commandments: First, they show us how to live before God and neighbor, and expose our sins in failing to live as God intends. Second, they instruct our civic or common life, showing us how to live responsibly in the freedom God gives. Third, rather than show us what we must do in order to receive God's grace and love, the commandments show us how we should live because we are a people who have already received God's grace and love in Jesus Christ. Does God's law restrict or enhance our freedom as human beings?

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

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

2024 Book Group: Anthony Marra's *Mercury Pictures* Presents

We're looking to restart the BCC book group for this Spring. Rev. Cath's availability isn't conducive to leading this cycle so Sanjay (sgcherian@gmail.com) will coordinate the activity. Rev. Cath plans to participate as a reader and in discussions. We have a set of books to choose from (see the other side).

We found that having the meetings in people's homes led to a strengthening of our fellowship so we'd like to use that approach again. If you'd be willing to host 10-15 people coming to your home for 1½ - 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon, please let Sanjay know.

Let's try and meet on:

- March 17, 4:00-5:30pm; read Part 1 (stop when you get to the chapter "The People vs. Art Feldman")
- April 7, 4:00-5:30pm
- April 21, 4:00-5:30pm

Daylight Savings Time begins March 10: Spring Forward!

Check the batteries in your smoke detectors and move the clocks forward an hour. Otherwise the only part of the service you'll catch is the Benediction!

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.

Would You Like Offering Envelopes for Your Weekly Offering?

Just let Bill Dunbar (financechair@bccnh.org) know, and he'll set you up!

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.

	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.





For the month of March Outreach will be collecting items for Janice's House. Janice's House is an emergency shelter run by Bridges who offer a safe, confidential shelter at a non-disclosed location. They are staffed with trained advocates who offer support, information and referrals to women and children to assist them in rebuilding their lives.

Bridges of Milford & Nashua, NH is a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping victims & survivors of domestic & sexual violence. They offer support and options to individuals who need to talk, need information, or feel alone, afraid, or helpless. Advocates provide emotional support and information through their 24 hour support line at 603-883-3044, support victims at a hospital, police station or court, and provide emergency shelter in a safe environment at Janice's House.

These items will be collected from March 1st thru March 31st:

Deodorant		Hand &
Body Soap	Toothbrushes/Toothpaste/Mouthwash/Dental Floss	
Shampoos and Conditioner		Body lotion
Menstrual Products		Hair
Brushes/Combs		Wash Cloths
Facewash		Disposable wipes
Shaving Cream/Razors		Baby/Childrens
Diapers-Any Size		

You may place these items anytime in the plastic bin outside the church by the side door or leave in the front hall inside the church.

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 that this is for the Bridge's Drive.

If you have any questions pertaining to the Bridges Drive or our Outreach Board please contact Amy Razzaboni at 603-801-9210 or arazz3914@gmail.com.