



[Photo by cottonbro studio:](#)

Prelude: *Your Words are Wonderful (Psalm 119)* by Sovereign Grace Music

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalm 119:9-16, p. 463

Leader: How can young people keep their way pure?

All: By guarding it according to your word.

Leader: With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

**All: I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

**All: With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.**

Leader: I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.

**All: I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.**

Leader: I will delight in your statutes;

All: I will not forget your word.

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

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10, p. 973

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you’;
as he says also in another place,
‘You are a priest for ever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.’

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

[Hymn: Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All feat. John Finch by The Vigil Project](#)

Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all
How can I love Thee as I ought?
And, how revere this wondrous gift
So far surpassing hope or thought?

Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore
O, make us love Thee more and more
O, make us love Thee more and more

Had I but Mary’s sinless heart
To love thee with, my dearest King
O with what bursts of fervent praise
Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing

Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore
O, make us love Thee more and more
O, make us love Thee more and more

Sound, sound His praises higher still,
And come, ye angels, to our aid
‘Tis God, ‘tis God, the very God
Whose power both man and angels made

Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore
O, make us love Thee more and more
O, make us love Thee more and more

Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore
O, make us love Thee more and more
O, make us love Thee more and more

Sweet Sacrament, we Thee adore
O, make us love Thee more and more
O, make us love Thee more and more

A Confessional Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

**All: Redeeming God,
we confess that we have not loved you
with our whole heart,
and have not loved our neighbors as we ought;
we have strayed from your commandments.
Do not remember our sins, but forgive our iniquities,
that we may fix our eyes on you and sin no more,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Minister: Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
May you delight in the joy of your salvation.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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.]

Reflection on Scripture:

Hymn: *The Center of it All* by Mac Powell

(chorus) From the beginning to the ending
You're the center of it all
It's for You and it's from You
You and You alone
The Author of our story
Let it all be for Your Glory
From the beginning to the ending
You're the center of it all

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:**

As the high priest Melchizedek blessed Abraham
and offered his tithe of bread and wine
at your holy altar,
may our gifts be made perfect through Christ
to glorify you and bless the world. Amen.

Announcements

Reflection on Scripture:

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus,
you lift the suffering world toward hope
and transformation
and open the way to eternal salvation.
As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ,
may your law of love be written on our hearts
as he draws all people to himself revealing
your love for the world. 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: *Jesus at the Center* by Israel & New Breed

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is the longest of all the psalms. An acrostic psalm where each letter of the alphabet receives eight entries before the poem moves to the next letter.

First, the psalm wants to instruct the young in the “a-b-c’s” of obedience to God’s instructions or torah. Second, it affirms that torah will cover every facet of human existence from A to Z. Third, the message is that life is reliable and utterly symmetrical when the torah is honored. A torah-ordered life is as safe, predictable, and complete as is the movement of the psalm.

Content-wise, the psalm affirms that the torah is not just a set of rules, but it is a mode of God's life-giving presence. Obedience to the torah is a source of light, life, joy, delight. This psalm instructs people in the need, possibility, and delight of setting strong foundations for identity and vocation. Torah living does not require keeping options open about who we shall be.

Furthermore, torah obedience is a starting point, a launching pad, from which to mount an ongoing conversation with God through daily experience. It is simply a statement of trust and submission to a God who has been found to be good and generous.

On the one hand, the psalm understands that life with God is a two-way street. Torah keepers have a right to expect something from God. Obedience gives entry to seek God's attention in God's gift.

On the other hand, having earned the right to speak, the speaker nevertheless throws himself on the mercy of God and waits for a move from God – a free, unfettered, uncoerced move from God. A life of full obedience is not a conclusion of faith. It is by mercy and not by obedience that the psalmist lives (v. 77).

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 39-41.



PRAYER LIST (3/17/24)

- 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 Lori, Amy's sister-in-law, home from the hospital recovering
- For Jimmy, Candy's brother-in-law, who's having more tests for cancer
- For Sandy, Ann's sister, who is dreading the one year anniversary of her husband's death
- For Wiznadine and the other citizens of Haiti, as they face rising violence
- 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

Loving God, you offer the gift of new life each day. Open my heart to receive this grace that I may be wholly yours, then give me the courage to share this gift wherever I go as I seek to walk in your way of mercy, forgiveness, and newness of life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Forgiving God, who makes all things new, you know where I have flourished this day, and you know where I have failed. Help me to know that in all my challenges there is a seed of hope that enables me to more faithfully depend on you. May I rest in peace this night and awake refreshed to greet the newness of your day. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

God is at work offering forgiveness, showing mercy, and giving knowledge of life, death, and salvation. Where is God enacting that new life within or around you? What in your life must die so that you may flourish? What must fall away so that you can rise again in Christ?

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

Treats for Easter Coffee Hour

We'd welcome any treats you can provide so we have an abundant and welcoming coffee hour on Easter morning!

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

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.

Palm Sunday, March 24, New members join the church

We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, celebrated by the crowds. We will welcome new members to the church. And we begin to reflect on the dark betrayal of Jesus which leads to the Cross. If you are interested in joining the church, please let Rev. Cath (minister@bccnh.org) know.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, Remember Jesus' Last Supper

We remember Jesus' Last Supper and the blessing he promised to his disciples. This year, the Mason Congregational Church is hosting the 7:00pm joint service at 33 Valley Rd in Mason. At 6:00pm, we'll hold a potluck soup and bread supper in the Social Hall. All are welcome to both or either.

Good Friday Vigil, March 29

From 3:00 to 9:00pm, the church is open for quiet reflection on Jesus' death at human hands. Many find this time of deep quiet profoundly renewing. There is a sign-up sheet in the social hall.

Easter Sunday Service, March 31, 6:15am at Andres or 10:00am

We celebrate the greatest of Good News – Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

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

Horton Center Schedule for 2024 looks awesome!

Lots of fun theme weeks, from Mysteries on the Mountain to Hogwarts at Horton Center. If you know of anyone who could use some time in a beautiful place, centered on Christian faith, please pass the word. Scholarships are available.

www.hortoncenter.org

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 +/-
February	\$10,593	\$19,921	(\$9,328)

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 Clothes**
- **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.



The Deacons will be donating a small number of Easter flowers to help decorate the sanctuary. Please fill out the form below and give it to a Deacon (Russell H, Barbara HH, John P, or Candy T), or email your dedication to Candy at secretary@bccnh.org. We will include your dedication in the Easter bulletin, as we have done in past years.

Dedication deadline: Sunday, March 24, 2024.

Placed by: _____

In Memory of: _____

And/or In Honor of: _____