



*Brookline
Community Church
April 14, 2024*

[Photo by Pixabay:](#)

Prelude: Psalm 4 by The Corner Room

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalm 4, p. 425

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

Leader: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.

All: Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

Leader: How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

**All: How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
Selah**

Leader: But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

**All: When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.
Selah**

Leader: Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

**All: There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!'**

Leader: You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.

All: **I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.**

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

Scripture Reading: Acts 3:1-11, p. 887

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, 'Look at us.' And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, 'I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished.

Children's Message: *What are you asking for?*

Hymn: Repent by 2GBG

Repent, repent, when you start to disobey.
Repent, repent, when you've nothing kind to say.
Repent, repent, don't just grumble through your day.
You must turn to God and repent.

Repeat

For sin is after you. You must master it before it masters you.
Repent, repent, when your anger's on display.
Repent, repent, when you only want your way.
Repent, repent, don't just grumble through your day.
You must turn to God and repent.

Repeat

Yes, you must turn to God and repent.

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: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus by March252000

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Singing.... Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Singing.... Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah

No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Though none go with me I still will follow, Though none go with me I still will follow, Though none go with me I still will follow. No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Singing.... Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah

No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Won't you come with me, and follow Jesus, Won't you come with me, and follow Jesus, Won't you come with me, and follow Jesus? No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Singing.... Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Singing....Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah

No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Singing.... Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Singing....Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah **(HUH!)**

Singing... Ha, la, la, la, la, la, la Hallelujah

No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

No turning back **(NO! NO! NO! NO!)** No turning back.

Sacrament of Communion

Prayer of Confession

Minister: The One who calls us to repent, hears us.
In trust that our Creator knows us through and through,
let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

**All: Good and gracious God,
we are creatures of dust,
ignorant of your revelation,
misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection
among us,
needing forgiveness.**

**We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us.
We beg your mercy for our fallen world.
We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus.
Be our solace in this life and always.
We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete.
Forgive us and lead us.**

Minister: In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
your plea for absolution has been heard.
God's promises are sure: your sins are forgiven.
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: Repent (What a Joy it Is) by The Worship Initiative featuring Davy Flowers

Your goodness makes me want to sing
And your mercy brings me to my knees
And your faithfulness is with me till the end
And your kindness makes me want to repent
Jesus I repent

Scripture Reading: Acts 3:12-21, p. 887

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: Sufficient for Today featuring Maryanne J. George & Mav City Gospel Choir

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
Is sufficient for today
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
Is sufficient for today

Toward Perfect Health, A Prayer¹

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 God, we offer to you only a portion
of what you have given us.

All that we have is from your creative hand.

All that we can give away we do through Jesus’ love.

All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit’s wisdom.

Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy;
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 4)

Leader: I need to know you’re with me, O God who guards my back.
When I’ve been in tight spots, you’ve always given me space,
perspective, openness.

All: Hear my prayer, and make space for me one more time.

Leader: And the rest of you jamokes, who are making my life miserable,
dumping shame on me, loving your little in-jokes, your vain words
and, frankly, your total lies about me, how long are you going to
keep this up?

**All: God takes care of the faithful, responding almost before we
call out.**

Leader: So take it from someone who knows. When someone is all up in
your grill, don’t play their game, don’t turn their provocation into sin
on your part.

**All: Be silent. Sleep on it. Pray on it. Give it up to the Lord in
prayer and trust that God will bring you through.**

¹ Walter Brueggemann, “Toward perfect health: (on reading Acts 3:1-16).” *Journal for Preachers* 36, no. 3 (2013): 40-41.

Leader: Because there are way more of us than anyone realizes, staying connected with God, expecting the light of God's love to shine in their lives, even as they meet trouble out in the world everyday.

All: God, you have brought so much abundance into my life. Every time life tightens around me and I don't have time, space, strength, patience to turn around and try something differently, you give me a dollop of joy.

Leader: So let me sleep peacefully and deeply tonight,

All: Held safely and lovingly in your loving kindness.

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: Thank God for Sunday Morning by Cochren & Co.

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 4

Psalm 4 combines candor about trouble with great faith and deep hope. This is a prayer that looks trouble full in the face, without diminishing confidence in God.

The prayer begins abruptly, as prayers do when we are in desperate straits. Nice words are driven out by urgency. Verse 1a is a “please” addressed to God, a please that is uttered but not yet answered. By contrast, v. 3b is a bold refutation addressed to human adversaries. In v. 3b the speaker may be even more bold and confident that the unanswered prayer of v. 1a warrants. But that is how faith works. Thus the extreme trouble of this speaker does not fall outside living faith. The speaker knows that the faithful power of God will indeed be mobilized, and so the trouble itself is not an ultimate fact of life.

Verses 4-5 is the speaker offering advice to others who are agitated over the trouble in their lives. The advice is to ponder in silence, a bit ironic since the speaker is so loud in complaint. Verses 7-8 show the petition has been resolved; God has heard and satisfied the true longing.

The final verse of the psalm bespeaks quiet and complete trust. The speaker who was so anxious and agitated is now prepared to be completely at rest and at peace, to be as vulnerable as sleep.

This prayer is the prayer of one in the “right.” The prayer does not ask for mercy or forgiveness, but only the protection properly due to the righteous. This speaker lies down in “peace,” the sure protection of God, the same peace declared in the greeting of the risen Christ. The speaker may be severely troubled, but all the trouble is confidently contained in the scope of a functioning, working, trustworthy relation to God. Even severe trouble is held within the deep awareness that comes with a life utterly devoted to the purpose of God.

Adapted from Walter Brueggemann, “Third Sunday of Easter: Psalm 4” in *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year B*, ed. Walter Brueggemann et al. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1993), 290-292.



PRAYER LIST (4/14/24)

- 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 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 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 Charlotte, Ann's cousin, who had spinal surgery which will take several months of recovery
- For Melissa, Donna's niece, due to have a baby in three weeks, praying the baby turns
- For the ever-present news from Middle East - praying for peace
- For Sue, John Lee's step-mother, facing complications and infections in her cancer treatment
- 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, recovering from a powerful earthquake
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning²

God of surprising revelations, I thank you for rest and renewal. I thank you that when you come to your people, you speak peace and invite faith in you. Make this new day a time when I will give more thanks for life than I did yesterday. Give me ears to hear your will for me, hands that are open to others, and eyes to see the beauty in your world; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

For all that has happened this day, O God, I give you thanks. Even for the obstacles I faced, I thank you. Especially when I wobbled in doubt, I thank you because I did not fall. You came to hold me strong and help me take the next step. Now give me rest, secure in your never-failing arms. Let my dreams revolve around what is pleasing and good, bringing me to a new day with zeal for your gifts; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

When Jesus appeared to the disciples, "he opened their minds to understand the scriptures" (Luke 24:45). What is it to "understand" God's word? How does understanding feed your faith? In the coming week, take note of one new understanding that comes to you from something you hear or read or realize through another person.

Daily Awareness Reflection³

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 ...

² 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.

³ Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

Announcements

Treats for Coffee Hour

We'll be hosting the Hollis Congregational Church next Sunday, so we could use some extra treats!

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 14, 4:00-5:30pm

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 +/-
March	\$15,939	\$25,108	(\$9,169)

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.

