



[Photo by Rev. Cath at the Easter service:](#)

Prelude: Psalm 22:23-31 by The Hand of the Lord

Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalm 22:25-31, p. 435

To the leader: according to The Deer of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live for ever!**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;

**All: and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

Leader: For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

**All: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.**

Leader: Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,
All: **and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

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

Pastoral Prayer

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: [Because He First Loved Me by Fanny Crosby](#)

I'm trusting, only trusting in Jesus day by day. I feel His presence nearer while pressing on my way; my soul is full of glory, and this my song shall be: I love my blessed Savior because He first loved me! Because He first loved me, I love Him! Because He first loved me, I trust Him. My soul is full of glory, I sing because I'm free. I love my blessed Savior because He first loved me.

I'm trusting, only trusting in Jesus every hour. Who saves me by His mercy, and keeps me by His power. I will share of His salvation where ever I may be, with all my heart I love Him, because He first loved me.

I'm trusting, only trusting my Savior's hand to guide. I see His grace sufficient, and ask for naught beside. My soul is on the mountain, my home, beyond the sea: O bless the Lord! I love Him, because He first loved me. Because He first loved me, I love Him! Because He first loved me, I trust Him. My soul is full of glory, I sing because I'm free. I love my blessed Savior because He first loved me.

Because He first loved me, I love Him! Because He first loved me, I trust Him. My soul is full of glory, I sing because I'm free. I love my blessed Savior, I trust my blessed Savior, with all my heart I love Him because He first loved me.

Communal Prayer

Leader: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

Leader: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

Leader: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

All: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Leader: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

All: Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

Hymn: *Because You First Loved Me by Sovereign Grace*

Love is patient, love is kind. Everywhere and every time. It gives its place in line to serve another. But my heart it struggles so I need Your grace to grow. Lord, help me give and show this love to others. Jesus, set me free to love unselfishly.

Because You first loved me I can love You with all my heart. Because You first loved me I'll love others too, the way You do - I'll love them too.

When I love it looks like this: it always gives and gives to God and then it lives to help my neighbor. That's a love I haven't got - it's me I love a lot. Stuck here I'm tied in knots. I need a Savior. Jesus, set me free to love You more than me!

Because You first loved me I can love You with all my heart. Because You first loved me I'll love others too, the way You do - I'll love them too.

Because You first loved me I can love You with all my heart. Because You first loved me I'll love others too, the way You do - I'll love them too. The way You do - I'll love them too. The way You do - I'll love them too.

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:**

**Offering what we have for the sake of others
is a discipline of pruning—letting go of our possessions,
our time, and even ourselves—
to extend the gospel witness into the world.
May our many gifts become one offering for the world;
in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Announcements

Anthem: *There is No Fear in Love by Dust of the Saints*

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 22:25-31)

All: Suddenly I realize that God has rescued me and has been rescuing me all along. And I need to tell everyone about the God who never forgets.

Leader: God doesn't walk away from us, no matter our affliction or how badly we are afflicted. God never writes us off.

All: God never turns away. God always hears our cries.

Leader: In wider and wider circles, from family to church to everyone at the ends of the earth, we need to tell everyone that the poor shall eat and be satisfied, that the forsaken are never alone.

All: All the families of the nations will sing God's song, all nations will follow the rule of God, seeking justice and mercy.

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: *For the Love of God* by Andrew Ripp

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 22

This psalm is of special interest for Christians because Jesus quotes verse 1 from the cross (Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34). A classic example of a psalm of lament, it is readily divided into two parts: the complaint of the speaker in trouble (vv. 1-21a) and praise and thanksgiving after the resolution of the trouble (vv. 21b-31).

Two questions arise from the drama of this psalm. First, is it true that God can be present and then absent? Conventional theology says no. It is clear nonetheless that the Psalter gives an account of lived reality that takes place through give and take in which God is a part of the entire tension of fidelity and infidelity. We are thereby free to attest to our experience of divine abandonment and to take it at face value as a theological truth.

Second, are we free and unrestrained to voice our conviction of divine abandonment? This psalm, among others, makes clear that we may use no-holds-barred rhetoric to share our conviction about God. Orthodoxy places no curbs on us. Such utterances, moreover, not only characterize such a reality of divine absence but do so in an accusatory tone, assuming that we are entitled to richer fidelity from God than we readily experience.

Alongside such questions, two affirmations are central to this faith. First, we trust that serious, engaged petition will indeed mobilize God to action that God would not otherwise undertake. Such prayer is not pretend but is life-or-death engagement with God, who is thereby summoned from infidelity to fidelity, from absence to presence.

Secondly, the God who has been absent, can be again present in decisive, transformative, life-giving ways. Thus, the dramatic movement of the psalm is not only rhetorical but a lived truth concerning the God who comes into circumstances of death and gives new life.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 111-122.



PRAYER LIST (4/28/24)

- 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 Charlotte, Ann's cousin, who had spinal surgery which will take several months of recovery
- For Sue, John Lee's step-mother, facing complications and infections in her cancer treatment
- For the Jewish community celebrating Passover, remembering God's great act of liberation
- For John, Carol Cherian's brother, recovering in the ICU from an auto accident
- For the friends and family of Tonya Kelleher Boisvert, graduate of Hollis-Brookline, who died surrounded by family at the age of 46
- 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: Morning¹

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with me through the hours. I thank you for the breath and strength I have, and I beg your help that I may use my powers wisely and with compassion toward everyone I meet. Let my questions today be a form of pruning to bring forth in me new understandings, healing, and good fruit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Sweet Jesus, in this night of rest, heal my broken places and restore my faith. You are my vine; only in you am I strong enough to face the darkness of this world. I thank you for the safety of my home and pray for those who have no bed tonight. Make me grateful, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What is your deepest desire? Jesus says that "whatever you wish . . . it will be done for you" (John 15:7). Spend time in the next days asking yourself at evermore profound levels what you most devoutly wish for in this life and the next. Then ask for it.

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

Thanks to everyone who donated for Janice's House!

Your support made a big difference in the lives of women who are in the middle of a really tough transition.



Angel Choir: Save the Date & Looking for Hosts:

The Angel Choir, a group of talented young people from the First Presbyterian Church of Granville, OH will be presenting a free concert at the Hollis Congregational Church in the evening of Wednesday, June 5th. If you can host at least two of the young people, please contact April Springfield at 603 943-9452 or (aprilCspringfield@gmail.com)

BCC Book Group: Looking for suggestions for our next read

We wrapped up our discussion of Anthony Marra's *Mercury Pictures Presents*. We're looking for suggestions for our next read. Let Sanjay (sgcherian@gmail.com) know if you have any ideas!

Faith Formation: Deepen Your Connection with God: May 5, 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: 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.

