



*Brookline  
Community Church  
May 12, 2024  
Rev. Catherine A. Merrill*

[Photo by Daria Obymaha:](#)

**Prelude: O Clap Your Hands written by Orlando Gibbons performed by  
VOCES8**

**Welcome and Right Hand of Fellowship**

Extend a greeting to those nearby

**Call To Worship, Psalm 47, p. 450**

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

Leader: Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.

**All: He subdued peoples under us,  
and nations under our feet.  
He chose our heritage for us,  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.  
Selah**

Leader: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**All: Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.**

Leader: God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.

**All: The princes of the peoples gather  
as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
he is highly exalted.**

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

**Children's Message: *What do you have there?***

**[Hymn: Clap Your Hands All Ye People by Listener Kids](#)**

Clap your hands all ye people. Shout unto God with a voice of triumph. Clap your hands all ye people. Shout unto God with a voice of praise.

Hosanna, Hosanna!

Shout unto God with a voice of triumph. Praise Him, praise Him! Shout unto God with a voice of praise.

*repeat*

**A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:**

The response to each part of the prayer is: **“May we be Christ’s body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”**

**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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

**[Hymn: Lord, Listen to Your Children arranged by Kenneth Drake](#)**

Lord, listen to your children prayin’. Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying’, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

**Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23, p. 949**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,

according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**[Hymn: Yes and Amen \(Ephesians 1\) by Shane and Shane](#)**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Who has blessed us in our Savior with every spiritual prize  
You shouldered my shame gave me your name no longer enemies now friends  
We shout out your praise for glorious grace you will now keep me 'till the end  
I have been chosen, oh yes and amen

He has chosen for adoption sons through Jesus' name  
for the purpose of His will to the praise of His glorious grace  
You shouldered my shame gave me your name no longer enemies now friends  
We shout out your praise for glorious grace you will now keep me 'till the end  
I have been chosen, oh yes and amen

Forgiveness rich inheritance predestined for your purpose  
Holy Spirit guarantee salvation, hope and power in me  
Forgiveness rich inheritance predestined for your purpose  
Holy Spirit guarantee I have been given everything  
You shouldered my shame gave me your name no longer enemies now friends  
We shout out your praise for glorious grace you will now keep me 'till the end  
I have been chosen  
You shouldered my shame gave me your name no longer enemies now friends  
We shout out your praise for glorious grace you will now keep me 'till the end  
I have been chosen oh yes and amen

**A Prayer for Mother's Day**

**[Anthem: The Gift I'll Give by Shawna Edwards](#)**

**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:**  
**Holy One, we clap our hands and shout for joy!**  
**We give you praise and these offerings,**  
**for, with Christ ascended by your side,**  
**you are God, awesome and Most High! Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 47)**

Leader: Join in the worship song, everyone. Sing to God, by whatever name you use, because finally, *finally*, God is ruling over the earth.

**All: We were chosen by God, not to be the most important, the most powerful. We were chosen to be the most faithful of God's servants on this earth.**

Leader: Mmhmm. God has ascended to the throne, ruler and president and prime minister, CEO and influencer and rock star, accompanied by cheers and trumpets.

**All: So sing that the frail and failed humans are not pretending to be in charge any more. That there is a single power over all the earth, and it is the power of justice and mercy and righteousness.**

Leader: Sing "thank heaven" that God is in charge.

**All: Those in earthly leadership, elected or appointed or simply brutal in their use of power, gather. Those servants of God gather. And those who are both. And those who are neither.**

Leader: They offer their shields and other weapons to the One to whom all power belongs.

**All: And God is exalted. By everyone.**

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: Psalm 47 \(Shout to God\) by Mercy Worship](#)

*Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.*

## Notes:

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### Psalm 47

The initial lines celebrate the power, authority, and sovereignty of the God of Israel, Yahweh (vs. 1-4). The summons is addressed to “all you peoples” (v. 1). The liturgy of the Jerusalem Temple dares to imagine that its worship is an act concerning all nations and peoples. This inclusive horizon is advanced by reference to Yahweh as “Most High” (*Elyon*, v. 2). The title is not an Israelite name for God, but is a generic name for the great god, a name to which all peoples could subscribe.

The reason for such praise is the kingship of Yahweh, the establishment of God’s sovereign rule (vs. 2-4). God is “*Elyon*,” the God of all peoples who presides over all the earth. Still, the actual speakers in the liturgy and in the psalm are Israelites, who know this universal God by the exodus name of Yahweh. Thus the hymn holds together the sweeping notion of universal sovereignty and the concreteness of the experience of the Israelite community.

The language portrays an act of coronation or enthronement (v. 5) whereby the candidate ceremoniously, magnificently, and ostentatiously ascends the throne and dramatically claims power and receives obeisance. Four times the congregation is urged to “sing praises” (v. 6).

In verses 8-9, we are taken into the throne room. Around the throne sit all the obedient, glad subjects (v. 9). There is among them no conflict, dispute, or challenge to the authority of God. “The princes of the people,” that is, all the other kings and rulers all are present.

This psalm invites us to understand the festival of Ascension anew. The festival is a dramatic moment whereby the presence of Jesus in the church is converted into a large, cosmic rule. God’s promise is a rule of mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and caring. The kingship of God revamps all other forms of governance.

Walter Brueggemann, “Ascension: Psalm 47 (A B C)” 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), 330-331.



## PRAYER LIST (5/12/24)

- 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 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 Kim, Amy's friend, recovering from a liver transplant
- 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 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 Craig, Candy's dad, heading into a high-risk abdominal surgery
- For Kevin, Kevin's dad, working with doctors to figure out the best way to manage his cardiac issues
- For Warren, Amy's in-law, finishing up chemo and getting additional palliative treatments
- For Kym's friends and family who got through the tornados in Nebraska
- For Liz, Catherine's seminary friend, who passed away this weekend
- 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: Morning<sup>1</sup>**

Holy One, come into my heart this morning and give me eyes to see throughout this day all the ways that you rule. Put your resurrecting power to work in my life and empower me to be a witness to Christ, that my life may be a song of thanksgiving to you. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

God, embrace me now at the end of this day. As in every day, there have been ups and downs, joys and disappointments. I thank you for my faith that, above it all, you rule. I put my trust in you as I give this day, now spent, to you. Do with it what you will, and send your Holy Spirit to pull forward threads from today that you will spin into good things tomorrow. I pray through Jesus Christ, who reigns with you, now and forever. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

The Ascension of Christ to be seated at the right hand of God is a grand liturgical celebration in the life of the church. It marks forty days of celebrating Easter and God's triumph over the powers of oppression, depression, and our fear of death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is one of many images we have for Christ: good shepherd, suffering servant, great physician. How does the image of the ascended Christ affect your understanding of who he is? What are the strengths and weaknesses in this image of Christ for you?

### **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>2</sup>**

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 ...

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.



### Looking for help cleaning the church starting in June

Marjorie is stepping down after doing a great job of keeping us neat and tidy (and banishing a bazillion lady bugs). We're looking for someone who'd be interested in stepping in to the part-time position. If you're interested, or know anyone who might be, please let Susan Haight ([sdlhaight@gmail.com](mailto:sdlhaight@gmail.com)) know.

### Drafting the Purpose Statement for the Church

The Vision team will be offering three different opportunities to get your input on the church's new Purpose Statement. It's the foundation of the work that is to come. We will run the same workshop three times to make it as easy as possible for everyone to contribute. We hope to see everyone at one of the following 90-minute workshops:

- Sunday, May 19, 11:30am at the church
- Monday, May 20, 7:00pm at the church
- Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm on Zoom



### **Assembling a Prayer Team (in general) and for the Vision process**

There have been an increasing number of prayer requests during the week, especially for people asking for prayer support in the face of an emergency. If you would be willing to be on a prayer team email, I'll send out what details I can share and ask you to add them to your prayers. We'll continue to pray for everyone in our weekly worship services as well.

The Vision team is also looking for folks who would be willing to pray for our work as we move through the process with the rest of the church. Later on, we may be doing some prayer walks through our community and we'd appreciate help coordinating those, but that will come later.

If you're willing to be a part of either team (or both!) let Rev. Cath ([minister@bccnh.org](mailto:minister@bccnh.org)) know.

### **Get your 2024 Parking Pass for the Grove! Our first Lake Service is 6/30!**

Grove personnel will be in the Town Hall meeting room on **Thursday, May 9th from 5-8 PM** processing placards and memberships. Please bring your placards for processing. If you do not have a placard and wish to purchase one, they are \$3.00 each. Proof of residency is required. [Click here for more details.](#)

### **Boy Scout Spaghetti Supper, May 11 5:00-7:30pm**

You know it will be delicious and friendly! All proceeds to support Troop 260 and the Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74. [Click here for more details.](#)

### **Senior Luncheon: May 18, Chicken Parm**

You don't have to be a senior to attend. If you'd like to help, speak with Amy ([arazz3914@gmail.com](mailto:arazz3914@gmail.com)).

### **Special Memorial Day Weekend Worship on THURSDAY, May 23, 7:00pm:**

As we've done in the past few years, we'll have a special Thursday night worship service ahead of the Memorial Day weekend.

### **Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, May 27 9:30am at the Town Hall:**

Remembering those service members we have lost, the ceremony is led by the Kilduff-Wirtanen American Legion Post #74, with Rev. Cath offering the prayers.

### **Angel Choir: Save the Date 6/5 & 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 5<sup>th</sup>. If you can host at least two of the young people, please contact April Springfield at 603 943-9452 or ([aprilCspringfield@gmail.com](mailto:aprilCspringfield@gmail.com))

### **Looking for Help to Spruce up the Church's Exterior**

Brookline is already planning its contribution to the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 2026. We'd like the church to put its best face forward. We'll be looking to speak with folks who can help us improve the look of the exterior, as well as finding sources of funding to help pay for that. If you're able to help, please speak with Susan Haight ([sdlhaight@gmail.com](mailto:sdlhaight@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](mailto:sgcherian@gmail.com)) know if you have any ideas!

### **Faith Formation: Deepen Your Connection with God: June 2, 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.

### **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](http://www.hortoncenter.org)

### **Would You Like Offering Envelopes for Your Weekly Offering?**

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

### **Gently Used Spring/Summer Clothes can find a good next home**

If you have any gently used clothes, let Amy ([arazz3914@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 +/-
April	\$22,266	\$34,087	(\$11,821)

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.

