



[Photo by Rosa Stone:](#)

Prelude:

Welcome & Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalm 23, King James Version

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;

All: I shall not want.

Leader: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

All: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Leader: He restoreth my soul:

All: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Leader: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

All: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Leader: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

All: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

All: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

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

Children's Message: *Whose voice is that?*

[Hymn: #60 Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

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 #522 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us](#)

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-10, p. 872

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

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

Reflection on the Scripture:

[Hymn #441 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling](#)

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 and generous God,
you have anointed us and we are yours.
Bless these tithes and offerings
that they may become green pastures and still waters
for any and all who need your comfort and restoration.
Amen.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 23)

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd. I have everything I need: a place to rest, plenty to eat and drink. I just need to notice the abundance I have.

All: God puts me back together when I have fallen apart, sets me on the right path when I have gotten off track.

Leader: When life is taking me into the darkest ravines, God is with me, guarding me, nudging me forward, comforting me.

All: Even though there are enemies all around me, some of my own making, God offers me a feast

Leader: God offers me healing and vitality

All: Goodness and mercy pursue me every day, never letting me get away. I will live in the home God made just for me every day I'm given on this sweet earth.

Leader: Amen and

All: Amen.

[Hymn #77 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty](#)

[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

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 23

This is the psalm we say to remember. We recite it together in funerals. Much of the power of this psalm comes from the contexts we remember when we recite it. And yet we recite it to remember because its imagery evokes grace, hope and abundance. Still that grace, hope and abundance are encountered in the real world, where we walk through Death Valley, where our enemies have taken our place at the table.

Our good shepherd has given all that is needed – good food, good water, good paths. Notice that all the verbs of action are for the shepherd. The sheep have no verbs. The sheep wait and enjoy the gifts. Because the shepherd is generous, the sheep live a safe, trust-filled life, surrounded by generosity. That is the grace that is offered.

We need to let ourselves be caught and embraced in love, like that of a sheep with safe pasture, like a traveler with rich and unexpected food. Our life is not willed by God to be an endless anxiety. It is meant to be an embrace by God. That's the hope, that we figure out how to let ourselves be caught.

What God gives will be enough for me. This is a statement of enormous confidence in the generosity of God, the one who knows what we need and gives well beyond all that we ask or think. "I shall not want," is a decision made against the greed and lust and satiation and aggressive ambition of a consumer society. I will refocus my desire. I will not entertain all those other distractions that keep me busy and make me selfish and cause me not to notice my neighbor.

I will remember.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Threat of Life: Sermons on Pain, Power, and Weakness*. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1996), 92-93



PRAYER LIST (4/26/2026)

- Friends & family of Peggy Hall, Clarence Farwell, Judy Edgecomb, Jean McKinney, Jackie Knowles, Beth Gay, Ethel Long, George Ferrell, Bronwen Evans.
- For Dave Joki, member of the Brookline Fire Department, fighting cancer
- For Paul, Rena's brother, who's starting chemotherapy
- For Eric, Paula's brother-in-law, recovering from a stroke
- For everyone fighting a tough diagnosis and the folks who support them
- For the friends and family of Mike, especially his wife Tonya, Jessica's friends, even as Tonya faces continuing health challenges
- For John Nicholson's sister, as she deals with mental health issues
- For the Avramov's friend who are dealing with mental health and substance misuse issues
- For Anne, Rev. Cath's mom, as she recovers from her broken wrist
- For the people of the Middle East whose lives continue to be upturned by conflict and by the members of the military and their families as they step into harm's way
- For John Weidman, who is beginning treatment for lung cancer
- For Nancy, Kym's sister, hospitalized with COVID
- For the Michaud family of Brookline, who lost a husband and father, may they know the love that surrounds them
- For Nick Panto, John's great nephew, being deployed to the Middle East
- For Shelby, Kym's granddaughter, being deployed to Israel
- For George, Donna & Peter's friend, in the hospital for cellulitis
- For families with legal issues needed to keep children safe
- For Aaron, Amy's son's friend, done with the first round of chemotherapy and seeing what's coming next
- For Tina & PJ, Marjorie's relatives, who are facing a fast-moving Parkinson's diagnosis
- For Stevie, Sharon Nicholson's uncle, who's facing health issues
- For Fred, Susan's brother, in declining health
- For Hannah, Bob & Linda's granddaughter, who's recovering from a dislocated knee
- For the friends and family of Joe Aronofsky, may they know the love that surrounds them
- For the people of Ukraine as they struggle to preserve their communities
- For the people of Taiwan
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning¹

Generous God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to watch for your signs and wonders in the world today, and fill my heart with gladness and generosity, that I may generate good will wherever I go. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for shepherding me through this day. As I lie down to sleep this night help me to imagine green pastures and still waters, and to remember all the ways you have set a table before me and filled my cup to overflowing. Amen.

Question for Reflection:

Acts 2:42–47 describes what life was like in the early church. How do these words guide today's church?

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 ...

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

5/16 Save the Date for the Yard Sale!

We're hoping to do it again, have a yard sale at the church to help folks clean out their closets, raise some money for a good cause and make some new friends. There will be drop-off times on Saturdays April 18th & May 2nd. Any questions? Speak to Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com).

Putting Faith into Action: Possible Projects

We're trying to figure out where best to put our energies as a church as we share some of the abundance we find in our faith. Our current list of ideas is below. We'd love to hear from members of the church if any of these resonate with you enough that you'd be willing to help get them off the ground.

- Open up to new participants and invite people for volunteering/help
- Identify people who will monitor and represent BCC at community events to foster more cross collaboration
- Agree on events to invite community members to participate in
- Train members in making church invitations & collecting contact info
- Create practices/events that help BCC members connect more deeply
- Enhance online worship and digital outreach
- Create social media marketing strategy
- Identify team to actively drive and be responsible for social media presence

First Floor Apartment Needed

David, Coco and Derek Smith are looking for a first floor apartment in the area to make it easier for David to get around without having to climb stairs. If you know of someplace, please get in touch with Derek (dbsmith09@gmail.com).

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.

Looking for Help to Spruce up the Church's Exterior

Brookline is already planning its contribution to the nation's 250th 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).

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!

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

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.

The church's financial obligations continue.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
March	\$21,164	\$32,962	(\$11,798)

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.



Brookline Community Church

*Yard Sale &
Breakfast Buffet*

Saturday, May 16th 8AM-1PM

**Come enjoy a delicious breakfast and
browse through the yard sale.**

Seniors 60+ Eat For Free!

Adults \$7.00 Children \$5.00

Proceeds to benefit Home Health & Hospice
and the Brookline Community Church

Accepting Items for
Yard Sale

Saturday April 18th & May 2nd
8-11:00 AM



NO large furniture or electronics

2 Main St 603-673-7511 Outreach@bccnh.org
