



Brookline Community Church
Worshiping Apart
Reverend Catherine Merrill, Minister
Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

Every part of worship has a video, so we've gathered them together in [a play list](#).
[If you click on "Play All"](#), they'll play from the beginning of the service to the end!
And you can just follow along, never clicking on another link.

Or you can go through clicking on all the individual links – your choice.

Centering Ourselves for Worship:

[\[Click here\]](#) and choose which ever part you'd like]

Call: Glorious God, we give you thanks and praise,

Response: For on this day creation sings,
Christ is risen from the dead!

Call: He has burst forth from the tomb
to break the tangles of despair and death.

Response: Love is come again.

Call: Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the eternal chorus of rejoicing

Response: we give thanks for Jesus,
the risen Lord of life,

All: who rose victorious from the grave
and made the whole creation new.

Hymn: O Glorious Day

[Click here](#) for a video that will give you the lyrics and someone to sing with.

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6

[[Jeremiah 31:1-6](#) read for you.]

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword

found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

the LORD appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant,

and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

'Come, let us go up to Zion,

to the LORD our God.'

Lifting Up Our Joys & Concerns:

[[Joys & Concerns Prayer](#) read for you]

Glorious, Flawless God¹

Today is the Big Day,

the Day of Resurrection

the Day when Death Died.

Yet this Big Day is in the middle

of a Big Pandemic

when Death is all around us,

even if it is just on the news, and Facebook,

and in the sirens rolling by,

and stalking our families, far and near.

¹ Today's prayer of Joys and Concerns was inspired in large part by Maren Tirabassi, "Prayer of Little Things," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted March 30, 2020, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/03/30/prayer-of-little-things/> (accessed March 31, 2020).

So today should be a day
of Big Prayers.

But we have only some little things
to lift up.

This week, we folded up the canvas bags
that used to carry our groceries
and began to cry,
for all the good efforts we've made
that have gotten folded up and set aside.

This week, we walked the dog
past the cemetery and thought —
the stones are too close,
and began to remember
all the people who touched our lives
and from whom we now have
so much distance
and began to cry.

Joy, too, came
As bright and flamboyant
As the drive-by birthday parties
with balloons out the sun roof
and singing
out the car windows.
That we saw on YouTube.

Glorious, Flawless God
On this Big Day
We ask that you bring your loving presence
even closer to us in our small joys.

For the jam from last summer, that reminds us that summer will come again and reminds us of dear friends and a snowy Christmas Faire together;

For all those, like Dave Larkin, who are recovering from cancer. May they continue to be careful;

For those who have stocked up on food in our house and for the pleasures of favorite meals, like Shepherd's Pie;

For the creative people who can sew and make gorgeous face masks to keep our community safe;

For our gratitude at not yet personally knowing someone who is sick from Covid-19, and for our prayer that it may continue that way

For the improving weather so we can return to our gardens with renewed enthusiasm;

For all the new ways we are finding to do things we have done before;

For the walks we are taking and all the new things we spy when we get to know the same route really well;

For all the small joys we are finding in this Big mess of a pandemic that we cannot put into words ...

Bring your loving presence closer, O Glorious Flawless God.

Glorious, Flawless God
On this Big Day
We ask that you bring your loving presence
even closer to us when our small concerns
Seem too Big to endure

For Henry, Linda and Bob's grandson, recovering after receiving stitches from a fall while playing Superhero;

For Ann's father, who was temporarily hospitalized (only a few hours) for a minor non-Covid-19 infection;

For Josh, John Panto's son, who is working in an essential agricultural business and is exposed to hundreds of workers every day;

For Carol's brother who hit a deer with his car; he is okay, but the car did not survive so well and it was his primary means of transportation to get to work each day;

For Cindy & Melanie's nephew, who is traveling during the pandemic to get home to be with his family;

For Aunt Rose, Amy's relative, a sweet little Italian lady with compromised lungs who's in the hospital with Covid-19;

For Rev. Catherine recovering from a weekend stay in the hospital with a racing heartbeat; she's fine but agrees this is *not* the time to be in the hospital!

For all those who have lost their jobs and are facing economic insecurity at a time when there is no useful way to look for work;

For all those whose jobs have become completely overwhelming because our systems of unemployment and health insurance were never designed to handle something like this;

For all those who are afraid and who feel like they can't say so because everyone else is being so cheerful;

For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers;

For all those doing essential jobs, doctors and nurses, those who wash the laundry at the hospitals and cook the meals, those who stock the grocery shelves and keep the pharmacies open, those who deliver package and keep the mail going, those who keep the power and the internet flowing, those who maintain public safety, may they know that we are grateful when we can't possibly reach out to every one of them;

For all the concerns we feel but cannot find the words for ...

Bring your loving presence closer, O Glorious Flawless God.

Glorious, Flawless God,
Help us to see that
suddenly
the balloons stood for
every joy we've ever known,
gravestones for all our losses,

and changing back to plastic bags
for our bread and coffee and potatoes
to keep everyone safe
should remind us that
we have not changed the world
for the world's children.

Then, Glorious, Flawless God,
help us to see that your
Beloved, Resurrected son always spoke to us in —
parables.

Not just in the vintage ones from scripture,
but in these too,
found in a strange new normal,
of these stay-at-home days.

We know the inside out of little things
that flatten the curve
between our hearts and hope,
between this kingdom and the kingdom to come,
for which we pray every day, saying:

[\[Our Special Easter version of the Lord's Prayer\]](#)

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 (978) 494-6953.]

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

[Click here](#) for a video that will give you the music and someone to sing with. The lyrics are:

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of Man and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given

[\[Prayer of Dedication](#) read for you]

Glorious, Flawless God
You have given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
You have given us good friends and neighbors,
Families who care for us and who accept our care,
You have given us plenty of food and drink in this time of trial,
You have given us strangers to care for even as we keep our distance
You have given so much that we don't know how to begin to say "thank you"

By your grace, accept the fruit of our labor
and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord
who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

[[John 20:1-18](#) read for you.]

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection on the Scripture:

[[The video](#) of the reflection.]

On that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene was on a mission. She was trying to do right by Jesus, to honor him for everything he had done during his life. She wanted to show how much his life meant to her, all the work and laughter and sitting down to meals with just anybody. She wanted to show her love for him as someone who had taught her something important about living a good life, in right relationship with God and with her neighbors.

But she had one overwhelming and frustrating problem. She couldn't find him. Where was he? She goes and recruits a couple of the band of twelve, Peter and the unnamed disciple. The Gospel of John is a founding document of a group that revered the unnamed disciple, so it was kind of a code word for them. Regardless of their names, it appears that after running to the tomb, the most those two disciples have for Mary is that they agree with her, Jesus is definitely missing. They go home and Mary is left weeping.

She's weeping out of grief, and frustration and fear and probably plain old emotional overload and exhaustion. We get that. We've all been there. The angels ask her why she's weeping. Jesus asks her why she's weeping. And she's perfectly clear. She's weeping because she doesn't know where Jesus is.

In the coming weeks and months, we're going to be weeping. From grief, frustration and fear. From emotional overload and exhaustion. We're going to want to do right by people we've lost. We're going to weep because some wonderful people who taught us a lot about living a life that is right with God and right with our neighbors died too soon.

And we're going to want to do right by people who have done so much during this pandemic, who have gotten us groceries or stocked the shelves or emptied the sharps bins in the hospitals or driven the ambulances or cleaned out the sewers. Six months from now, we're going to hear a story about the teams that cleaned every ambulance between calls, so they would be safe for the next person who needed them. We're going to hear stories like that and we're going to weep because there were so many people who were doing heroic things that we never knew about and we want to do right by them. But we don't know where they are.

In the coming weeks, we're going to find out more of what happened and what could have happened and what should have happened. We're going to get more data and we're going to process that data and there's going to be an awful lot of people who want to explain how they had seen it all from the beginning. And that will make us want to weep too. Because some of it will be true and much of it will just be people's egos desperate for stroking.

And somewhere in the coming weeks and months, we're going to ask Mary's question: "Where is Jesus?" When we are in the wilderness of grief, frustration and fear, emotional overload and exhaustion, we are going to ask, "Where is God?". Because what is the point of being a Christian, of being a believer, if we are going to stand weeping, feeling that God has left us when a virus was loose in the world and humans were doing what humans are especially good at – being rotten to one another.

Five centuries before that first Easter morning, Jeremiah reminded his people who had been defeated in war, lost everything including loved ones, and sent into exile in a foreign land, that *the people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness* (Jeremiah 31:1). Jeremiah reminded a weeping people of God's promise that *Again I will build you, and you shall be built* (Jeremiah 31:4) and *the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit* (Jeremiah 31:5). Indeed, Israel is only a nation, only a people, because that is an outward expression of God's love. Israel does not and cannot exist in and of itself.² God said *I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you* (Jeremiah 31:3). That love does not and cannot cease, so the people of God's future remains assured.³

Easter isn't some kind of magic act, where a body comes popping out of God's top hat like the finale of a stage show.⁴ Easter is about the God we worship, who has been proving over and over again, that God's love is everlasting and never ending. Easter isn't about the resuscitation of a corpse; it's about the God who has loved us with an everlasting love all our days.⁵ Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, to celebrate that God's love freed us from slavery in Egypt, brought us safely to freedom and offered us grace during our time in the wilderness.

We sing our hallelujahs despite a world that is hardly inclined to sing and finds very little to sing about. We sing because we know that there is another way to run a world, a world where death is not the final word, where despair is not the winner, where human power and hierarchies are not thought to be inevitable and unchangeable. Like Jeremiah, we need to look squarely in the face of the world's ugliness and horror and hopelessness and shout, "Christ is risen!" because the God who raised Jesus from the dead loves us with an everlasting love and will always, always continue in divine faithfulness to us.⁶

² R. E. Clements, Jeremiah, in *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching* (Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1988), 185.

³ Clements, 185.

⁴ John C. Holbert, "Easter Day, Homiletical Perspective, Jeremiah 31:1-6" in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 2*, ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010), 355.

⁵ Holbert, 355.

⁶ Holbert, 357.

Like Mary, we weep in this world and we wonder where Jesus is. And then Jesus turns up. Calling our name. Speaking to us personally. Because that too is the kind of God we follow. Not a theoretical God. Not one who shows up on average most commonly in the following range of circumstances. Our God takes individuals lives and individual bodies seriously. So Jesus shows up in our lives and we don't recognize him because we think he came in the landscaping truck across the street. And maybe he did.

But once we recognize him, we want to grab onto him, even though we're not supposed to be touching anybody these days. We want to grab onto to him and keep him with us.⁷ That Easter morning, Mary was not the first person to ask where Jesus was. But always, always, when that question gets answered, Jesus says where he is going.⁸ So instead of trying to keep Jesus here with us, perhaps we should let him grab ahold of us and take us where he is going. We should let him take us with him so we can move mountains and banish fear, love our enemies and change the world.⁹ We should let him take us to that everlasting love, to the white-hot presence, to his Father and our Father, to his God and our God (John 20:17).

Hymn: Flawless

[Click here](#) for a video that will give you the lyrics and someone to sing with.

⁷ Barbara Brown Taylor, "The Unnatural Truth." *The Christian Century* 113, no. 10 (1996): 325.

⁸ Paul Sevier Minear, "'We Don't Know Where ...', John 20:2." *Interpretation* 30, no. 2 (1976): 133.

⁹ Taylor, 325.

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

[[Click here](#) and choose which ever part you'd like]

Call: Mighty God,
In whom we know the power of redemption
Response: You stand among us in the shadows of our time.
As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
Uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
Call: When, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
We will share in his resurrection,
Response: Redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
And forever freed to be your people.
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."](#)

[The Music Ministry crew made this bit of video for us, so we could all sing together, with each other and our former selves!]

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

We're going to try a coffee "hour" with everyone on Zoom immediately after the service. It may be fun, it may be crazy. Wear your Easter bonnet!

We're all learning the ins & outs of how to connect, but, if you have a choice, **try to connect using a Chrome browser.**

If that isn't an option for you, I believe if you go to the link below in Safari, it will complain that it won't work and it will ask if you want to download the Zoom app. If you say "yes", that should get you the app on your ipad/iphone/Mac. You'll need the meeting ID which is below and the password, but I hope if you follow the prompts, you can get in. You need to turn on the audio & video by clicking on different buttons.

If the technology is making you crazy, just forget it and send me an email. It's not worth getting ourselves nuts.

1. The meeting ID is: 895 251 853 and the password: 011699, in case you need it.
2. Open an internet browser and navigate to this website:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/895251853?pwd=M2MxaktQQnRFZmpyUG5mbGVKMVIDQT09>
3. Close the Open zoom.us? box and click join from your browser link

4. You'll need the meeting password: 011699
5. Enter your name (e.g., Catherine M.)
6. You'll enter into a waiting room and I'll let you in from there.
7. Once you are admitted to the virtual meeting room, you'll see a screen with two audio options.
8. Click the Join Audio by Computer button.
9. Use the microphone button to toggle mute/unmute on your screen. Similarly use the camera button to toggle video on your video display.
10. You may exit the meeting by clicking Leave Meeting in the bottom right of the screen. Otherwise, you'll be disconnected from Zoom when the host concludes the meeting.

Also...once you're in the meeting, if we cannot hear you, there's a 'Chat' feature we can use to converse should you not be able to hear or if we're not able to hear you.

There's now a phone only option, which may be less complicated.

Dial +1 253 215 8782 OR +1 301 715 8592 and enter:

Meeting ID: 895 251 853

Password: 011699



PRAYER LIST (4/12/20)

If you know those on this list, call on them & tell them we are praying for them. If you know others who should be added to this list please give their names to the minister or a deacon.

- Rev. Tom Atherton, failing from Parkinson's
- Friends & family of Nell Smallwood, Beatrice Maude Charewicz, Win Hall, Bruce Garvin, Louise Price, Eddy Whitcomb, Shirley Jeffreys, Hazel Corey, Jean & Duke, David & Dougy Connors, Jerry King, Tre Rouse, Tasha Feller, Pat Tiner and Terry House.
- For those who are struggling with depression, addiction, mental health issues, and in their marriages
- Luca, Amy's nephew, as his new treatment appears to be having effect
- Ethel Long who is recovering from hip replacement surgery while she helps Ron get back on his feet after breaking an ankle and getting a pacemaker put in
- God's grace and healing for us all
- Dave, continuing to recover now that he is in remission
- Those affected by the corona virus around the world and those working to limit its impact
- The homeless, who have nowhere to shelter in isolation, and whose places of refuge (libraries, malls, shelters) are closing down, that we may find a more productive approach to homelessness.
- Those suffering from domestic violence, who are caught at home with their abusers at a time of rising stress, and therefore rising abuse, that they might find safe havens.
- All those who are dealing with health problems at the moment, all those whose surgeries have been postponed, all those who need medical attention and worry they are taking attention away from the pandemic response.
- For Wisnadine and Quebin, our Compassion International children, from Haiti and Mexico. We pray for their health, the health of all those who are helping them in Haiti and Mexico and all those unable to work in Haiti and Mexico during this trying time;
- For Nicu, a VA nurse, Yanelis' husband, we pray that he is able to help the way he trained for and that he'll return home healthy and soon.
- For Peter Fleming, one of Lisa's friends from the Milford Special Needs group that meets monthly, who is in the hospital with a brain tumor.
- For the babies who are arriving prematurely, that they and their parents get all the attention they need.

- For the virus staying out of LedgeWood, where Carol works, and all the other assisted living facilities.
- For Laura, Ann's daughter, whose work in the pharmaceutical industry means she is offering company orientation classes every week to new people she doesn't yet know.
- For Donna and Peter returning to the office when both offices have had people with the virus.
- For all the nurses and doctors who are doing amazing work.
- For all those driving the vehicles with sirens which are some of the only sounds we hear in our cities.
- For those who deliver our packages, so we can remain out of the stores.
- For being able to give each other the quiet we need in our very shared spaces.
- For Henry, Linda and Bob's grandson, recovering after receiving stitches from a fall while playing Superhero;
- For Ann's father, who was temporarily hospitalized (only a few hours) for a minor non-Covid-19 infection;
- For Josh, John Panto's son, who is working in an essential agricultural business and is exposed to hundreds of workers every day;
- For Carol's brother who hit a deer with his car; he is okay, but the car did not survive so well and it was his primary means of transportation to get to work each day;
- For Cindy & Melanie's nephew, who is traveling during the pandemic to get home to be with his family;
- For Aunt Rose, Amy's relative, a sweet little Italian lady with compromised lungs who's in the hospital with Covid-19;
- For Rev. Catherine recovering from a weekend stay in the hospital with a racing heartbeat; she's fine but agrees this is *not* the time to be in the hospital!
- For all those who have lost their jobs and are facing economic insecurity at a time when there is no useful way to look for work;
- For all those whose jobs have become completely overwhelming because our systems of unemployment and health insurance were never designed to handle something like this;
- For all those who are afraid and who feel like they can't say so because everyone else is being so cheerful;
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers;
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning

Jesus, victorious Lord, I exult in your resurrection. As I sing “alleluia” with my voice, let my life embody “alleluia” as a testimony to your love and a witness to your eternal life. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, the days of sadness are over, for you have risen from the dead. As you conquered the grave, free your servant from fear of harm or death, that I may rest in peace this night and in the morning rise to sing “alleluia.” Amen.

Questions for Reflection

When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty. Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him? Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him? How would you know?

Daily Awareness Reflection

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 the next few minutes 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 God for forgiveness for any failure or omission, and 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 ...

From Elizabeth Liebert’s *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), p. 31.

Announcements:

This time of isolation can be very difficult. You may know someone who needs some support beyond what you can provide. We're in this together.

- Suicide prevention: 1-800-273-8255
- Sexual assault: 1-800-656-4673
- Domestic violence: 1-800-799-7233

Melanie, our state senator asked to pass along the following two pieces of information:

- If people want to know the latest status of COVID 19 in NH and the Emergency orders to date, go to <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>
- A great video explaining Covid-19, what and how we fight it and why what we are doing is so important:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgBla7RepXU>

Brookline Food Pantry

Although we cannot be together physically at this time, Outreach is continuing to work with Rebecca Purdin through the Brookline Welfare office & CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to address any needs in our community.

The Brookline food pantry is now open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-2:00 for drop-offs only. There is a list on the [Brookline Food Pantry's Facebook page](#) that is being updated as items are needed. The current list includes:

Flour	Raisins
Sugar	Popcorn
Muffin Mix - blueberry, orange, chocolate... not corn (we have lots of that)	Pudding Mix
Cooking Oil	Canned Peaches and Fruit Cocktail
Peanut Butter Crackers	Apple Juice
Fruit Snacks	Juice Boxes
	Diced Tomatoes

Donations can be dropped off downstairs at the Town Hall during regular hours of operation. There are large boxes for donations if there is no one in the Food Pantry. There is also a drop off at the Brookline Post Office.

If you are not on Facebook you can contact Amy and she can get the list to you.

Thank you for your continued support to our church and our community.