



*Brookline Community Church*  
*Worshiping Apart*  
*Reverend Catherine Merrill, Minister*  
July 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.

Providing it is not raining, we will also offer our first Covid-19, in-person service on the side lawn at 9:00am on July 12. There is a separate document attached to the email that delivered this worship service which lays out our guidelines. Basically, bring your own mask, lawn chair and bulletin. We won't be singing, but we will be together and we'll see how it goes. The service will be this one with the music pulled out.

**Prelude: [Jesus Lord to Me](#) by Mark Hayes**

[No lyrics, just music to help you get settled for worship]

**Centering Ourselves for Worship:**

[Join the Shaklees, today's lay leaders, [in our centering prayer](#).]

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.<sup>1</sup>

**Hymn: *Look at the World* by John Rutter**

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

If you have a favorite hymn you'd like to include in our worship service, just send it along and I'll look for a good place for it.

**Lifting Up Our Joys & Concerns:**

[Rev. Cath [sharing our Joys & Concerns.](#)]

May you walk with God

This summer

In whatever you do

Wherever you go

Walking with God means...

Walking with honesty

And with courage,

Walking with love

And respect

And concern for the feelings of others

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a pray by Rev. Dr. William J Barber II, "A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times" Prayer Index of the Jesuit Resources of Xavier University, <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/coronavirus-prayers> (accessed July 2, 2020).

Walking with God means ...

Walking with joy

Sharing the joys of your journey, like:

Mark Searles who writes from Lynn sharing some of his memories as a boy in being part of this church;

The fireworks over the Fisher Cats stadium and having something familiar as part of our July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration

Facetiming with Peter and seeing the natural beauty that's surrounding him at the moment;

Climbing Mt. Monadnock early on a July 4<sup>th</sup> morning;

The VFW's quiet celebration of July 4<sup>th</sup> on the Town Hall lawn

Being the only audience for an impromptu parade at the Cathedral of the Pines

May you walk with God in joy.

May you talk to God

This summer

And every day and

In every situation

Talking with God means...

Praying words of praise

For the beauty of creation

Saying prayers of thanks

For friends and good times,

Asking God's help

In all your decisions

Expressing sorrow

When you have failed

Talking with God means ...

Putting your concerns into words

And asking for God's companionship during the tough times, like

Donna's mum falling and hitting her head, but not having more than a bump

Lori, Cindy's friend, whose Mom is moving from Florida. The move is getting more and more complicated by Covid-19;

Friends and Family of Kenny, Amy's uncle, especially her cousin Chad, who is feeling the isolation after such a loss;

Struggling with our ability to see the big picture as well as the individual details;

May you talk with God and share your concerns.

May you talk with God

May you walk with God

May this summer be one of deepened faith

Every day. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

[\[The Lord's Prayer\]](#)

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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (978) 494-6953.]

**Anthem: *Song of My Father* by Urban Rescue**

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

**Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-11**

[\[Romans 8:1-11 read for you\]](#)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For

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<sup>2</sup> Based on a prayer by an unknown author, "A Summer Blessing" Summer Prayers, <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/summer-prayers> (accessed July 2, 2020).

those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### **Reflection on the Scripture:**

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

The way the reading from Paul goes, it sounds like you have to pick. Either you're in the body or you're in the spirit. It's like AM or FM,<sup>3</sup> you're either getting traffic on the 4s or you're getting the greatest hits of the 70s, 80s and 90s. And perhaps because the Church spent so many centuries telling so many people that their bodies were bad, evil, leading them astray, we kind of read into this passage from Romans that bodies are bad and spirits are good and you definitely want to ditch the body as quickly as possible.

But I don't think that's what Paul's saying. He's far too practical a Christian for that. Bodies are the whole point. Jesus was a regular person. The crucifixion and resurrection are pretty pointless if Jesus' real body wasn't involved. Jesus spent years of his ministry healing broken bodies. Bodies matter. So this message *those who are in the flesh cannot please God* (Romans 8:8) cannot mean that the point of our worldly existence is to get through it as quickly as possible, hit the eject button and return to pure spirit.

I think that Paul is arguing that we have to choose between two orientations, two alignments with the world. One is toward the ever more limited, ever diminishing range of outcomes that humanity, focusing only on the desires and needs of the body can attain. The other is toward the ever more abundant, ever increasing range of outcomes that God, through the fully human Jesus Christ, can attain.

Early in my corporate career, I had to travel. Not all the time, but not infrequently either. I would usually get to my hotel pretty late, having worked a full day in Boston and then flown to Texas or California. I'd get into my hotel and collapse. Then in the morning, I'd take a shower. Sometimes the shower was ordinary. But most times it was wonderful. Way better than my shower at home. So I

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<sup>3</sup> Barbara Ann Hedin, "Romans 8:6-11." *Interpretation* 50, no. 1 (1996): 55.

decided I would shower as often as possible when I was on the road. Because it was such a pleasure and it was free and why miss out on something that lovely when all I had to do was take 10 minutes to enjoy it?

Then, one morning after a series of meetings, we got talking about how people commuted to the office. Someone mentioned that he rode his motorcycle and I said I had never been on one. And he asked if I wanted to take a ride at lunch. It was a crazy suggestion, so I said, “No.” Only what came out of my mouth was “Sure.” I have no idea what the next meeting was about, because all I could think about was what had possessed me to say “yes.” And I decided it was that it was like the shower. Maybe it would be ordinary. But if it was wonderful, why would I want to miss out? So we went, and I didn’t love the ride. It was too noisy and I felt the speed way too much. But I was really glad I had gone. Once I started asking myself, “but what if it’s wonderful?”, I kept finding opportunities that I should try because maybe they would be wonderful too. My new orientation, my new alignment, had me changing the way I approached the world.

That’s what I think Paul means by *living according to the Spirit* and *setting our minds on the things of the Spirit* (Romans 8:5). When *Christ Jesus set you free from the law of sin and of death* (Romans 8:2), what changed in you? How do you keep referencing that experience of freedom? How do you find different ways of expanding that freedom in your own life?

For each of us, it will be different. For some of you, it’s having a neat and tidy home because portions of your life were so chaotic that neat and tidy wasn’t possible. For some of you, it’s not having the next beer, because all the previous beers eventually led to destruction. For some of you, it’s having your own time with no people in it, because your life has had a lot of people in it, all with expectations of you that you couldn’t meet.

But whatever that first experience of true spiritual freedom was, it happened while your spirit was in your body. You needed your body to hold the experience in a particular place and time.<sup>4</sup> And you needed your body and your spirit to work together to recognize that the freedom you had first experienced over there and back then was now showing up over here and right now. And maybe it was time to give this new experience a try.

Any one experience of the spiritual freedom is probably pretty small. So it’s not the experience that Paul is so activated about. It’s that God will keep offering them. It’s that they will build on each other, interconnect with each other, building a network. It’s that one person acting on the spiritual freedom that God offers

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<sup>4</sup> David M. Greenhaw, “Proper 10, Pastoral Perspective, Romans 8:1-11” in *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 3*, ed. David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 234.

causes other folks to do so as well. We can't create them. Only God does that.<sup>5</sup> But we can respond to them. We must respond to them. Because once you really see one experience, you get much better at spotting the next.

That's what makes Paul's unbelievable statements at the beginning and end of this passage true. He began the reading by saying *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Romans 8:1). And he ended it with *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you* (Romans 8:11). For those experiences to build on each other, you need your body to anchor them and your spirit to recognize them. And you need a place for God to dwell in you. So don't worry about choosing between AM and FM. Just choose to keep going, listening for all the places God plays that holy music in your earthly bodily life.

### **Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given**

[\[Let's pray together.\]](#)

Let us open our mouths in praise,  
that we may bear fruit in every season  
and be satisfied by God's goodness,  
for God is the source of all growth;  
God's grace abounds forever. Amen.

### **Hymn: *God of Love* by Jana Alayra**

[\[Click here\]](#) for a video that will give you the lyrics and someone to sing with. And if you want to sing with sign language, feel free!]

### **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World**

[\[Let's pray together.\]](#) Thanks, Joel, Lindsey, Cora and Kier, for being our Lay Leaders this week!]

Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus,  
we have stumbled through the week  
and groped our way back to this place.  
Illumine the steps before us  
and write your word on our hearts,  
for we carry the name of Jesus  
and would walk in the light of his love. Amen.

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<sup>5</sup> Beverly Gaventa, "Proper 10: Romans 8:1-11" in *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A*, ed. Walter Brueggemann et al. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1995), 403.

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!]

**Postlude: Even Then by Micah Tyler**

[Feel free to sing along and let it help you gear up to return to the world.]

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



## PRAYER LIST (7/12/20)

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, Bruce Garvin, Louise Price, Eddy Whitcomb, Shirley Jeffreys, Hazel Corey, Jerry King, Tre Rouse, Tasha Feller, Pat Tiner and Terry House.
- Luca, Amy's nephew, as his new treatment appears to be having effect
- Those affected by the corona virus and those working to limit its impact
- Those suffering from domestic violence, who are caught at home with their abusers at a time of rising stress, that they might find safe havens.
- For everyone to stay as healthy as they can in the days to come
- For the friends & families of those who have died alone;
- For our church, that we remain patient with the process of re-opening;
- For Nicu and the rest of the first medical reserve who have returned home safely from New York City;
- Donna's mum falling and hitting her head, but not having more than a bump;
- Lori, Cindy's friend, whose Mom is moving from Florida. The move is getting more and more complicated by Covid-19;
- Friends and Family of Kenny, Amy's uncle, especially her cousin Chad, who is feeling the isolation after such a loss;
- Struggling with our ability to see the big picture as well as the individual details;
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers;
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

### **Household Prayer: Morning**

God of goodness and growth, let your love be made real in me this day. Soften the hardened places of my heart and crowd out any corners of greed or anxiety. Make me be fruitful in thought, word, and deed. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Loving God, I am grateful that you are steadfast in forgiving my failures and transgressions, that I may sojourn in the temple of your rest and awaken again to serve your world. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, what then does it feel like to stand in a state of grace, alive, forgiven, and free? For what purpose has God redeemed you?

### **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 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 ...

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

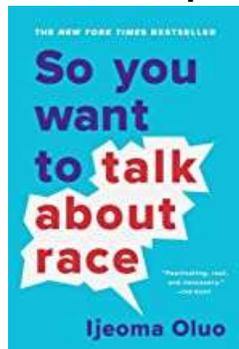
## Announcements:

Please shop [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Brookline Community Church as your charity to support the church. Thanks!

The church's financial obligations continue. If you are able, please mail your offering to: Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline, NH 03033.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
June	\$33,147	\$43,010	(\$9,863)

## Book Group at the Congregational Church of Hollis



The nation is grappling with issues of race and racism in profound ways that are asking white people, especially, to become more genuinely curious and educated about the lived experience of people of color. In the month of July, Rev. Tanya will be facilitating a book group exploring the best-selling book by Ijeoma Oluo called, *So You Want to Talk About Race*.

According to a review in the Washington Independent Review of Books, "white readers open to educating themselves will come away from *So You Want to Talk About Race* with a fairly nuanced understand of race relations and of the traumas enacted, in particular, on black bodies through the systematic inequalities present in American society."

We'll meet on Zoom, Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. starting on July 1. Please purchase a copy of the book from your favorite bookseller, and participate in what promises to be an engaging and thought-provoking conversation!

Every week on Wed:

- Jul 15, 2020 07:00 PM (Introduction through Chapter 5)
- Jul 22, 2020 07:00 PM (Chapters 6-11)
- Jul 29, 2020 07:00 PM (Chapters 12-17)

Join Zoom Meeting

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81864626885?pwd=ZVlsWW8vMHNCcm1uYTQ5WGJBUm14Zz09>
- Dial-in 1 646 558 8656
- Meeting ID: 818 6462 6885
- Password: 141531

## Help Lines

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

## **Covid-19 Scams Targeting Seniors**

The [NH Attorney General's office put out a press release](#) describing several scams that are targeting seniors. The claims range from needing personal information to get their Social Security payments, to being family members in need of cash to treat Covid-19 symptoms, to offers of fake medical products to prevent Covid-19, to needing personal information to get their stimulus checks, to fake charities. (Honestly, what are people like?!?).

Please pass the word to anyone who might be affected.

## **Covid-19 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/>

## **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. In addition to Market Basket gift cards, this week, like last week, they're continuing to look for:

--Perishables-- (must be dropped off during staffed hours or arrange pick up):

Eggs	American Cheese
Chicken	Chicken Nuggets
Ground Beef	

--Non-Perishables--

Pickles	White or Cider Vinegar
Parmesan Cheese	Flushable Wipes/Baby Wipes
Cookie Mix/Cookies	Cleaning Products
Salsa	Cat Litter

If you know of anyone who could use some help from the Food Pantry, please let Rebecca or Amy know. We sense there's more need in the community than is currently picking up food.

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.

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