



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.

Prelude: [Beach Spring](#) by James Koerts

[An instrumental piece to help you get settled for worship]

Centering Ourselves for Worship, Psalm 30:

[Join Jill & Kevin Aitken, today's lay leaders, [in our centering prayer](#).]

Leader: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**All: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**

Leader: O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

**All: For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.**

Leader: As for me, I said in my prosperity,
'I shall never be moved.'
By your favor, O LORD,
you had established me as a strong mountain;

**All: you hid your face;
I was dismayed.**

Leader: To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:
'What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**All: Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!**

Leader: You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,

**All: so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.**

Hymn: *Come Thou Font (Above All Else)* by Shane & Shane

[\[Click here\]](#) 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.]

Come Thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Here I raise mine Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I'm come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wand'ring from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

All else, I adore Your name
Above all else tune my heart to sing
Your praise
Above all else, I adore Your name
Above all else tune my heart to sing
Your praise
Above all else, I adore Your name
Above all else tune my heart to sing
Your praise
Above all else, I adore Your name

Above all else tune my heart to sing
Your praise

The highest praise
The loudest praise
To the name above every name

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

[Rev. Cath [sharing our joys and concerns.](#)]

Almighty God,
in Jesus Christ you show us the breadth of your power
and the depth of your love.
You listen to our cries of pain and hear our laments.
You see the fear in our eyes and know the secrets
of our hearts.

You accompany us in times of joy.
We pray for those walking with you in joy
For having members of the church, like Peter, willing and able to re-roof
the entry ways to the church,
For our grown daughters' birthdays
For having all our children home at the same time
For the folks to celebrate Father's Day with

Almighty God, show us the breadth of your power,
show us the depth of your love.

You accompany us in times of concern.

We pray for those walking with you weighed down by concern,

For the church, that we may work faithfully as we wait with others for the morning,

For the leaders of nations, that they might use their power in the service of justice,

For the natural world, that it will recover from the damage we have wrought on it,

For those in sickness and pain, that they might know relief,

For those who have died, that they might be joined with you,

For those who have no one to pray for them, that our prayers will offer comfort,

Almighty God, show us the breadth of your power,
show us the depth of your love.

You do not turn from our distress, but stretch
out your hand

to heal, to comfort, and to save.

All thanks and praise be to you, O God;
your steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

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: Psalm 30 by The Corner Room

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

Scripture Reading: Psalm 130

[Psalm 130 [read for you](#)]

A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Reflection on the Scripture:

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

Think about how much you learn from only hearing one side of a phone call. It's actually pretty amazing how much you can get right if you only hear one side. You know if your wife is speaking to one of your kids and often which one. You know if your husband has a telemarketer on the line. You know your son is talking to his boss and that your son's plans for the weekend have changed. You know when the call is serious, sometimes deadly serious. You know when something wonderful has happened, even if it hasn't happened to you.

We may think of the Psalms as being written from the human perspective and therefore not telling us much about God, but there are some elements which appear again and again. And those elements tell us a lot about how to envision and understand God.

Last week, I described the Psalms as falling into three categories:

- psalms of orientation, offered when the world is working as expected,
- psalms of disorientation, offered when the world we thought we understood has been swept away, and
- psalms of reorientation, offered to acknowledge that we've received an unexpected gift of something new being created in the world.

All those types of psalms share common elements, and some of them are so common, we don't really notice them. But they tell us a great deal about who is on the other end of the prayer.

The psalms are almost all addressed to You. To a known, named, identifiable You. There are other places in the Scriptures where God is addressed with more titles. But titles remain when the person who they refer to changes. "Mr.

President” meant a different person a couple years ago. In the psalms, there is just You. There is no lack of focus, no guarded euphemisms, no neutrality, no uncertainty, no playing safe, no new “discovery” or discernment of God.¹ When we offer a prayer to some vague sense of the divine, we are trying to keep ultimate control for ourselves. By praying to the God we know, we are acknowledging both that we do not create the world and that we know who does. Sometimes the psalms celebrate that God is the You we know. Sometimes the psalms remind God that God needs to start acting like the You we know. But there is never any doubt in the psalms who they are addressed to.

The psalms can speak to this known, identifiable You because the people who offer the prayers know the story of the You they are praying to. This You does two things. God creates something out of nothing, the world out of the void. God also reaches into history and creates the people of Israel out of a slave community. God’s fidelity is the same, caring for the stars in the sky as faithfully as God cares for the widows and orphans and foreigners among us. God’s fidelity is shocking in this world. God’s fidelity also destabilizes the world as we know it, breaking up what we’re used to. And God’s fidelity makes new and leaves us with abiding astonishment, healed, forgiven, ransomed, restored, not believing it could happen, but knowing that somehow it has.² We speak to this You because we know what this You has done.

In some of the psalms, we offer praise. We recognize that God has given us more than we could reasonably expect. Mixed into our praise is the realization that there is a congruity between who God is and who we are destined to be.³

Side by side with that extravagant praise, the psalms offer extravagant complaint. You are not acting like You and You need to get on the job! The psalms expect God to participate in this life, right here, right now. And if they feel God is missing, silent or not paying attention, the psalms have the language to call God on it. We stay in this conversation with God because we expect to have a stake in it. We know that prayer is the meeting ground where life occurs and we will wait there for a response from God, if need be, “until hell freezes over.”⁴ God has promised loving kindness⁵ and we will insist on it showing up. We insist on it because we have always insisted on it and God’s loving kindness has always shown up.

We also lament because we can see the difference between the world as it is and the world as God intends for it to be. We know the real world is rife with

¹ Walter Brueggemann, *The Psalms and the Life of Faith*, ed. Patrick D. Miller. (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995), 34.

² Brueggemann, 42.

³ Brueggemann, 51.

⁴ Brueggemann, 57.

⁵ *hesed* in Hebrew.

injustice and driven by death. And we know this is not God's intention. So we tell the story of how we know this and we offer prayers that God will intervene. We become more passionate, concerned and obedient to God's direction to love our neighbors. Because while God absolutely needs to intervene to get us on the right track, needs to reset the limits of what is possible, we have a role to play in the world in between those limits. Our love of neighbor can bring a part of God's justice into this world. So we pray to God to include us in the work of justice.

In the psalms, we pray to our known, named You. And we do it because we remember the stories of the You. We offer prayers of exuberant praise and exuberant complaint because that allows us to name the reality of this world, its unexpected gifts and blessings, its only too expected injustices. But what a flimsy foundation to build a life of prayer on.⁶ We build on memories, on words spoken thousands of years ago, and the experience of an often silent You. We walk away the idea of a faith built on strength, authority, distance and precision. We choose instead to continue in our unshakeable conviction that our prayers carry our meaning and are effective. We use our prayers, based on the psalms, to speak about and summon genuine holy reality. We choose to live a life of weakness and vulnerability. And yet those prayers and the people who pray them subvert the status quo, dismantle injustice and liberate the marginalized. That tells us a great deal about the God to whom they are offered.

Hymn: *Generous Giver* by Vintage Worship

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

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given

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

**Holy God, thank you for giving us a joy for generosity
and a genuine love for those who are in need.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts and upon our lives
that together we may bring healing and hope to the world.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

⁶ Brueggemann, 66.

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

(This is my riff on Psalm 30)

[\[Let's pray together\]](#). Thanks, Kevin and Jill, for being our Lay Leaders this week!]

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, we ask God to draw us up when we are falling into the Pit,

All: remembering to ask God for help, to heal our brokenness or indifference to others.

Leader: Before we decide who deserves blessing and who should be sent into exile,

All: Let us remember that God's favor is for a lifetime and it isn't our decision to make.

Leader: When it feels like the frustrations and fears will never really leave us,

All: Let us remember that weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Leader: When we feel certain that our prosperity is here to stay forever, let us remember the source of all prosperity.

All: Let us remember that God has turned our mourning into dancing; God has taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy, Not us.

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, let us make space in our lives to praise God, in word and deed,

All: Loving God, let us remember to give thanks for you for ever.

Leader: Amen.

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!]

Postlude: [Abundantly More](#) by North Point Worship

[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 (06/27/21)

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.

- Friends & family of Jerry King, Tre Rouse, Tasha Feller, Pat Tiner, Terry House, Rev. Tom Atherton, June Hoff and Dave Larkin.
- Luca, Amy's nephew, who's working with a new pediatrician who's helping him and his family
- 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 the church, that we may work faithfully as we wait with others for the morning,
- For the leaders of nations, that they might use their power for justice,
- For the natural world, that it will recover from the damage we have wrought,
- For those in sickness and pain, that they might know relief,
- For those who have died, that they might be joined with you,
- For those who have no one to pray for them, that our prayers will offer comfort,
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning⁷

Good morning, God. Before this day takes hold of me and I am spread too thin by care, I come to you to sit quietly, for you are good to those who wait for you, to the soul that seeks your peace. Fill me with your life-giving presence; may all that I do this day be done with calm attention, for you are my strength and peace. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for helping me to become a more generous and attentive person this day. As I let go of all the things done and left undone this day, make me mindful that it is your strength and steadfast loving presence that keeps my faith whole and fills me with a quiet confidence. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

When the woman who suffered a chronic and isolating ailment touched Jesus, he stated that the power had gone out from him. What aspects of your life and ministry empty you of power? How do you discern healthy limits and habits for the care of yourself and others? Which spiritual practices do you find most revitalizing when your energy reserves are depleted? In such times, how does your faith make you whole?

Daily Awareness Reflection⁸

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 ...

⁷ 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.

⁸ Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

Announcements:

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 +/-
May	\$34,212	\$35,905	(\$1,693)

Please shop smile.amazon.com and choose Brookline Community Church as your charity to support the church. Thanks!

You can now use the Amazon Shopping app on your phone and still support the church through the Smile program.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Church of Christ" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the app

What Community Events/Fundraisers Would Share the Spirit?

With the easing of Covid restrictions, we can start to think about events and fundraisers that would share our sense of the Holy Spirit's presence in our daily lives. We have plenty of willing hands, but we need some folks to get us running in the same direction. Breakfast Buffets? Spaghetti Supper for the Ghost Train Trail Race? Christmas Faire? Something we haven't thought of yet?

If you have ideas, speak to Rev. Cath, Ann Desrochers or anyone on the Cabinet!

Take Home Meals on SALE!!!! 3/\$20

We will not be making any new Take Home Meals for the months of July and August this summer. And we're clearing out the freezers to make room for more meals in the fall. So any three meals are going for \$20, such a deal!

Trustees Work Party: Saturday, July 10th, 7:00am

The trustees are looking forward to getting the basement cleared of the excess wood and paint and other materials. Please email Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) if you're able to help. *Particularly if you have a truck!!*

Habitat for Humanity Build in Nashua

Although they are not accepting volunteer builders at the moment, we have provided a financial donation to Habitat for Humanity in Nashua. They are currently working on a duplex for two female veterans and their kids. Habitat would welcome financial contributions at this time as well.

One Free College Class for 2021 NH High School Graduates:

The Community College System of NH (CCSNH), the Foundation for New Hampshire's Community Colleges, and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) have partnered to provide "A Gift to the Class of 2021."

Every 2021 graduate from any New Hampshire high school or home-school program is eligible to register for one free class at any CCSNH college this fall. The gift covers tuition for a three-credit course and fees, up to \$755 per student!

[Learn more.](#)

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 our community's needs.

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, they're looking for:

Pickles	Apple or Cranberry Juice
Parmesan	Paper Towels
Cookies/Cookie Mix	Coffee
Cheese Nip (or similar) Crackers	Disposable Razors
Jello/Gelatin (any flavors)	Dry Cat Food
Sardines	Dry Dog Food
Cereal (especially Raisin Bran or "Fun" Cereals)	Dish Soap
	Zip-style Bags

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.

Non-perishables can be dropped off at Brookline Town Hall (downstairs near the Town Clerk's Office), at the Brookline Post Office, or at the Cozy Tae Cart any time those places are open.

As always, perishable items such as bread, cheese, butter, eggs, meats, and milk can be donated during open pantry hours: Tues and Thurs, 10am - 2pm.

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

Greeting from the Open and Affirming Team

It has been over a year since we began the stay at home precautions due to Covid. We have greatly missed our church family. Last year we had just started to have conversations with our fellow members to listen to your thoughts and concerns around the Open and Affirming process. Due to Covid, we were not

able to continue the one-to-one conversations, and we stopped our team meetings as well.

We have recently started to meet again as a team and are hoping to resume the one to one conversations with our fellow members. We will be reaching out to all members of the congregation throughout the spring and summer.

However, to help facilitate questions and suggestions we have also created a question box to gather any questions or suggestions you may have. It is located on the table in the upstairs hall as you enter the sanctuary. In addition, we welcome your comments via email or post. These can be addressed to ONA c/o Brookline Community Church, 2 Main Street, Brookline, NH 03033. This will help us to facilitate conversations and will help us through the process.

We look forward to our conversations as we thoughtfully explore the process of Open and Affirming together.

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.

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/>

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