



Brookline Community Church

July 4, 2021

Reverend Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Because of the parade on July 4th, this is going to be a very short service. If you haven't had the chance, come on down and join in worship before turning your chair around and cheering on the parade!!

I gave the lay readers a week off, so I'm doing all the prayers this week, which will sound a bit strange in the responsive prayers we begin and end with. Still, we've gathered everything [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: [America the Beautiful by National Youth Orchestra](#)

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

Centering Ourselves for Worship

Leader: We come with joy – grateful for the spacious skies of summer.¹

All: We come thankful for purple mountains, blue sea, roadside lilies, warm sun.

Leader: We come, a people grateful for our country, committed to our faith, welcoming all people to this great land, praying for wisdom in all times and in every country.

All: Citizens of every place in the world – God shed your grace on us!

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

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

Loving God, we stand today as our forefathers have stood before you,
Celebrating our history and
reveling in all the great things that our country has achieved.

On this day we rejoice in the favor you have graciously given us.
We thank you for the blessings of liberty,
for this generation and for the generations to come.

We thank you for our independence, peace
and for all those who have bravely given their lives
in the defense of freedom and justice.

On this day of big themes, of independence and liberty and justice,
We know we live our lives in small steps.

We walk with you in joy, and pray for those lifted up with joy

For Lincoln Dean Desrochers, born to Jessica and Adam, Ann's son, on
June 23rd, what a joyful event for them

For the celebration of Juneteenth as a federal and state holiday, for the
history we share and build on

For having your sister make a special dessert just for you (let Rev. Cath
know if you want the Peppermint Pie recipe!)

For the summer parades we had to miss last year

Make us a generous people,
a holy nation,
a people set aside to love you forever.

¹ Today's Centering Prayer and Prayer to Send Us Back out into the World were inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "July 4, 2015 ... Some worship resources, without the jingo," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted June 22, 2015, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2015/06/22/july-4-2015-some-worship-resources-without-the-jingo/> (accessed June 27, 2021).

We walk with you in concern, and pray for those weighed down with concerns

For all those involved in the collapse of the Champlain Towers South in Miami Beach, FL. May the families have closure, the rescuers relief, and all those waiting for more information get what they need.

For our community to enter into deeper and more meaningful conversations, so we can care more deeply for each other

For Molly, Barbara's granddaughter, having !7! teeth pulled to make sure her adult teeth have room to arrive

Make us a generous people,
a holy nation,
a people set aside to love you forever.

We thank you that
your gracious and provident hand
has given us so much.

Yet as a nation and people
we have not always chosen the right way.
We ask you to forgive us for this trespass.

On this day we commit ourselves
to wholeheartedly honoring and serving you,
With everything that we are,
we lay our lives before you.

For the sake of the land of the brave and free,
and the peoples and nations of this world.
today, we do not presume your grace for our country.

May we look only to you
on this Independence Day,
fully aware we are wholly dependent on you.

Please come now by your glorious Holy Spirit,
breathe new life into the sinews of this nation.

May justice flow like rivers,
and righteousness like a never-failing stream,
until the whole of our country is covered with your glory,
as the waters cover the sea.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for all eternity. 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.]

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

Leader: This is the day which God has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad ... as fireworks!

Leader: Any day is holy; all time is given by God and precious.

All: But a summer day is a time of beauty, and a holiday is a time to remember.

Leader: All around us are parades and picnics.

All: And we bring a trombone-full of prayer and our open baskets to share what we have.

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: America (My Country Tis of Thee)

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (07/04/21)

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 all those involved in the collapse of the Champlain Towers South in Miami Beach, FL. May the families have closure, the rescuers relief, and all those waiting for more information get what they need.
- For our community to enter into deeper and more meaningful conversations, so we can care more deeply for each other
- For Molly, Barbara's granddaughter, having !7! teeth pulled to make sure her adult teeth have room to arrive
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning²

Loving God, as this day opens into new and untold possibility, purge me of my compulsive need to carry useless baggage – physically, mentally, or emotionally. Teach me to walk simply with you as I trust in your abundant provision. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, as I come to the close of this day, I thank you for the gift of attentiveness and for every moment that the eye of my heart was fixed on you. When I failed, you were with me, and when I wavered, you were there, for there is no place that you are not. And so I rest in peace this night, for your grace is more than sufficient for me. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Stuff distracts us. Useless clutter we think we cannot live without can be a burden: too many coats, shoes, garden tools, or mismatched kitchen storage containers with no lids in sight as they tumble out of overstuffed cabinets. Perhaps our clutter shows up in other ways: on a computer that has grown slow from processing too many useless files, or when our minds grow dull from too much Web surfing or television viewing. Do you struggle with too much stuff? How do Jesus' words about traveling light challenge you to change the way you live? How can you follow him more faithfully today?

Daily Awareness Reflection³

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 ...

² 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.

³ 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 +/-
June	\$42,170	\$42,361	(\$191)

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

Save the Date: August 1, Worship & Picnic Brunch

It's been a while since we've been able to share a meal. So save the date for August 1. We'll have a picnic brunch on the side lawn (weather permitting) after worship.

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!!*

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.

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.

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