



The worship service will be recorded and then edited so you get the best of both worlds, the service and the music videos. There's [a play list that will weave them together](#), so you can just press "play" and go from beginning to end!

Prelude: [Love Divine, All Loves Excelling](#) by Charles Wesley

[Let's sing a hymn from our Methodist heritage to get settled for worship]

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, source of all compassion,
Love unbounded, love all-pure
Visit us with your salvation
Let your love in us endure

Finish then your new creation
Pure and spotless, gracious Lord
Let us see your great salvation
Perfectly in you restored
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we sing before the Almighty
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Centering Ourselves for Worship, Psalm 145:10-18:

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.

**All: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

Leader: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words,
and gracious in all his deeds.

**All: The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

Leader: The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

**All: You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

Leader: The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

**All: The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.**

Hymn: Amen (Psalm 145) by Jon Buller

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

Children's Message (for kids of all ages):

What do you hold onto when you're afraid?

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

The response to "Abundant God, you are just in all your ways." is "**You are kind in all your doings.**"

God of abundance,
you open your hand and feed us in due season,
satisfying the desires of every living thing.
Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

We pray for the family of nations,
the families in our communities, and our own families,
that they may have all they need to live in peace and harmony.
Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

We pray for all churches and denominations,
that we may find ways of cooperating
to care for the earth,
and care for those in need,
while giving you the glory in all that we do.
Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

We pray for the victims of war and violence,
for the orphans, mothers, and men who must live
on the streets,
and for all those who are seen as the fragments
of society.

May they be gathered up so that no one is lost.
Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

We pray for the sick and those facing the end
of their days.

May Christ dwell in their hearts through faith,
and may they know that they are rooted and
grounded in love.

Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

We pray for those lifted up with joy,

For Susan's safe arrival in Florida before the road trip north (with a water
park in Tennessee!!!)

May their joy be shared and lift other hearts.
Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

We pray for those weight down with concerns,

For Dave, Donna's friend, who's in the hospital without a diagnosis

For the woman missing near Rev. Cath's parents' house, may she be
found safe and well, so the volunteers can call off their search

May they know your loving presence even more,
and the love of the community that surrounds them.

Abundant God, you are just in all your ways.

You are kind in all your doings.

When we are caught up in the storms of life,
come to us, calm our fears, and help us to reach
our destinations.

Now through the power of the Holy Spirit,
and in the love of Christ,

to you be the glory in the church for all generations. **Amen.**

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 (857) 259-7269.]

Hymn: *Let it Be Done Again (The Lord's Prayer)* by Kingdomcity

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

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21, pp. 950-951

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflection on the Scripture:

I know I said in the Children's sermon that I still get Piggy out from time to time. He comes out when I am afraid, and usually afraid in a particular way. I'm afraid I'm not enough. I'm not smart enough or organized enough or brave enough. And because I'm not enough, someone I love will have a lower quality of life. It's usually a feeling that I don't have enough resources for something in front of me and I'm overwhelmed. Sometimes Piggy just sits with me in the crook of my elbow on the couch at night until it's time to go to bed. It's a pretty rotten feeling.

I'm helping my extended family by going through my grandmother's financial and tax records. My grandfather died in 1975 and she died in 2012. And we have every tax return, every medical bill, every lawn mowing receipt for that period. But because she had memory loss at the end of her life, all of her files are a crazy quilt of random pieces of paper in random file folders whose labels have nothing to do with their content. To be honest, it's overwhelming.

I had a friend tell me about going to her in-laws house and their discovery of a walk-in closet full of similar material. She spent a week of her life emptying that closet. And by going through every sheet of paper, she found the answer to a

family mystery about a relative who had died in the 1920s in Central America. Turns out he was working as a tractor mechanic, for huge industrial tractors. He had gone to some remote plantation and repaired tractor #1 and while he was waiting for tractor #2 that needed repair to show up, he took a nap in the shade. The second tractor didn't see him sleeping there. Because they were so remote, they weren't able to get him to the hospital for three days and by then it was too late. So the company buried him in *this* cemetery in *this* plot. The family story went from not even knowing what country he was buried in to having the paperwork a particular piece of ground, all because my friend had taken care to go through every piece of paper in every folder in that closet and didn't just toss out everything after the first hour of looking at stuff that should have been thrown out forty years before.

I'm not going to find a great story like that in my grandmother's files. I'm going to find out that the fire insurance policy on the house she lived in in 1982 was paid in full. And that the company spelled Phoenix without an "o." Which is not nearly as cool as solving a family mystery in Belize in the 1920s.

What is hard for us to hear in today's reading from Ephesians, is that the "you" is plural. The prayer is that everyone listening to the letter may be *strengthened in your inner being* (Ephesians 3:16), *rooted and grounded in love* (Ephesians 3:17) and *filled with all the fullness of God* (Ephesians 3:19). And certainly that is my prayer for you all as well. But I think by speaking of the whole community at once, we're also seeing how the prayer moves from hope to reality.

I can't give 7,955 items to help other members of the community around us, but *we can* when we work together through Outreach. I can't clear out the basement of the church, but *we can*, on a rainy Saturday morning in only a couple of hours.

And when I stand at my ironing board, looking at fire insurance papers that could have been tossed decades ago, mixed in with a copy of her will that I should keep at least until I know that I have a more up to date one, I can think of my friend finding that great story. And I can think of each of you, doing something hard, challenging, tedious, saddening, maddening. And your witness of doing more than you thought you could helps me stand there for the 15 minutes I need to get through that day's stack.

Each of you has told me how you've done something that demanded more of you than you readily had available. And yet you were strengthened, rooted in love, filled with the fullness of God. And you kept going, taking one inch of random files off the pile every day, going to the rehab hospital or the nursing home every day, applying to college when guidance counselors said people like you shouldn't bother.

Next week, we're going to have a picnic brunch. And I'm going to ask that we make it part of our worship service, part of what we do next week to bow our

knees (Ephesians 3:14) before the LORD who upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down (Psalm 145:14). As we have our brunch, as we eat the food we've been given in our due season (Psalm 145:15), I wonder if you'd share a time you had to take on something you could not do, but did anyway, finding the strength and love and fullness you needed to keep doing it. It doesn't have to be your deepest darkest secret. Some evenings, Piggy and I sit on the couch with a peanut butter sandwich for supper because that's all I can do to keep my promise to not skip a meal.

The reading from Ephesians finishes *Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.* (Ephesians 3:20-21). That power, that glory is God's. But it shows up in the work that each of us who belong to God do when we lean on that power, when we open our hearts for God to dwell there (Ephesians 3:17). We want to sing that praise of God, that doxology, but sometimes, there's just not enough in us to do that. We need help from one another to see that we don't have to be enough. We just need to be open to God.

So today, when at least some of us and maybe all of us have something in our lives that we just don't feel like we're big enough to tackle, let us sing together the doxology we're more familiar with. *Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Hymn: *Nobody Loves Me Like You* by Chris Tomlin

[[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

**We rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received.
Multiply these gifts that we give
so that the world may more deeply know
fullness of life in you, Abundant God. Amen.**

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

(A riff on Psalm 145:10-18 for this week.)

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, we give thanks to God for the world God created,

All: We live in an everlasting kingdom, a gift to every generation, past and yet to come,

Leader: God created this world for those who are falling, those who are bowed down,

All: Let us join together in the coming week to demand justice for those who would be trampled underfoot.

Leader: God's eyes and hands are open
All: God gives us a world that can feed us all, satisfy all our desires, and all the desires of every thing that lives.

Leader: God's ears and heart are open,
All: God draws near to all who cry out with honest requests.

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, let us look around at the kingdom we live in and see God everywhere, from A to Z,
All: Our Abundant God is faithful and gracious and as near to us as our voice lifted in praise.

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: [I Am the Living Bread](#)

[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 (07/25/21)

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 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 Dave, Donna's friend, who's in the hospital without a diagnosis
- For the woman missing near Rev. Cath's parents' house, may she be found safe and well, so the volunteers can call off their search
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Psalm 145

This psalm is representative of Israel's joyous and grateful confidence in the Creator. In the song there is no development of plot. Indeed, it is essentially static in form, articulating what is enduringly true of the world. What is true at the beginning of the psalm is still true at the end.

What is true from beginning to end is that Yahweh securely governs, and can be counted on. We are given a series of affirmations that could be rearranged without disrupting the intent. The present order is necessary however because the psalm is an acrostic that is each line begins with the letter of the alphabet in sequence.

Though this is inevitably lost in translation, we may appreciate its intent. It is to assert the fullness and comprehensiveness of creation, to praise God for a world well-arranged and oriented, from A to Z. There is no slippage, attention, or incongruity.

The most foundational experience of orientation is the daily experience of life's regularities, which are experienced as reliable, equitable, and generous. A proper response is one of gratitude. The world is God's way of bestowing blessing upon us. Our times are ordered by God according to the seasons of the year, according to the seasons of life, according to the needs of the day.

In all of these processes, we find ourselves to be safe and free; we know that out of no great religious insight, but because that is the way life comes to us.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 28-31.

Household Prayer: Morning¹

God of the sunrise, ground me and root me in love today. As I move through all the different roles I play – parent, child, student, worker, church member, supervisor, volunteer – be my companion and strengthen my inner being where I live with you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God of the embracing darkness, thank you for dwelling in my heart. I was able to accomplish some things today and not others. Thank you for letting me rest in the promise that you are able to accomplish abundantly more in my life than all I can ask or imagine. I will sleep in peace. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

There is much hunger in the world, and many people live in want. Even the earth is wounded by humans and not getting what it needs to recover. In that context, how do you receive the word of the psalmist who writes, “The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing” (Ps. 145:15–16)?

Daily Awareness Reflection²

At the end of the day, I’ve been asking myself the following questions. I jot down the answers and ask them again the next evening. I’ve found it helps me to remain centered as well as increasing my awareness of God in my life. It takes about 10 minutes.

1. Slow down. Stop. Prepare yourself to pray by becoming aware of the love with which God looks on you ...
2. Note the gifts God has given you today. Give thanks to God for them ...
3. Ask God that this be a time of special grace and revelation ...
4. With God, review the day. Look at the stirrings of your heart, your thoughts, and your choices as the day progressed. Which have been of God? Which have not? What does God want to say to you about both? ...
5. Ask for forgiveness for failures/omissions, for healing from their effects ...
6. Look forward to the following day, and plan concretely with God how to live it according to God’s desire for your life ...

¹ The Morning & Evening Prayer and Question for Reflection are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

² Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2015), 31.

Announcements:

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

Next Week!!!, 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.

Helping SHARE-Local students getting ready for school

July may be too early to mention "back to school", but SHARE is thinking about it ...so all students can be ready as the end of August rolls around.

Please consider helping families get their kids ready for school by donating school supplies and backpacks.

Please get items to us by Wed August 4. Most wanted items include....

- New Backpacks (Prefer large, very sturdy. Even little ones need room for snow pants and sneakers!)
- Lunch Boxes
- Durable, Tear-Resistant 2-Pocket Folders (6 colors)
- 1, 2, and 3-inch Sturdy Binders (White)/Filler Paper/Dividers w/tabs
- Calculators (4 function)
- Notebooks 8 1/2 x 11" (1,3 and 5 subject)
- Pens: Blue, Black, and Red
- Ticonderoga Pencils
- 3- hole Pen/ Pencil Cases & Pouches
- Thin Tip Dry Erase Markers (low odor)
- Post-It Notes
- Highlighters and Black Fine Point Sharpies
- Crayons, Colored Markers and Pencils (Crayola preferred)
- Erasers: Pencil-top and Chunk
- Thick Washable Markers
- Glue Sticks (Jumbo and Lg.)/4oz. Elmers' Glue/Scotch Tape

- Rulers (Custom/Metric)
- Anti-Bacterial and Baby Wipes/Boxes of Tissues
- Hand Held Pencil Sharpeners with covers
- Marbled Composition Notebooks
- Scissors (Kid friendly)
- Index Cards

There will be a barrel outside the side door of the church starting Tuesday, July 20th, where you may put your donations.

Thank you for your continued support of individuals in ours and surrounding communities.

Reaching Out with Outreach

Outreach has been busy so far this year. We collected items to benefit Marguerite's Place, Bridges & Harbor Cares for their veterans transitional facility in Nashua.

We were able to donate in total 7,955 items consisting of diapers, wipes, paper goods, cleaning supplies, bedding & gift cards to these organizations!!

We could not have done this without the generosity of our congregation, Brookline and Hollis communities and the advertising efforts of Megan & Candy.

If you are looking for organizations to donate to over the summer please check out the websites for The Brookline Food Pantry, Share in Milford and the Nashua Soup Kitchen for their wish lists.

The Nashua Soup Kitchen is conducting their annual "Backpacks for Back to School" Program. More information can be found on their website at: <https://nks.org/project/nks-backpacks-for-back-to-school/>

If you would like to donate, but cannot get the items there please leave them in the basket in the front Hall at the church by August 1st and we will deliver the items for you.

As non-profit organizations are starting to open up again so are opportunities for volunteer and paid positions. If you are interested or have some time please consider checking out one of the organizations Outreach supports or contact an organization that interests you.

Visiting Angels of Nashua is looking for In-home Care Aides. Please see flyer attached with more information and how to contact them.

Please feel free to contact Amy Razzaboni at arazz3914@gmail.com or speak with any member of the Outreach Board with any questions or to get more information about our Outreach Organizations and other local non-profits.

Rev. Cath's new(-ish) cell number (857-259-7269):

Google has let me know that the virtual number I've been using (978-494-6953) is losing some features. So I'll ask you to use my personal cell number (857-259-7269) going forward. Many of you have the 857 number already because of the way the virtual number works. The 978 number will still work, but I may be slower to respond.

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!

Making Music with the Band!

The band is beginning to rehearse again. So they'd welcome any and all musicians to join in making a joyful noise before the Lord. Speak to Sanjay (scherian@charter.net) if you're interested.

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

We will be 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!

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.

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.](#)

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