



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: Table of Plenty by Dan Schute, performed by Nichlas Schaal
[An instrumental piece to help you get settled for worship]

Centering Ourselves for Worship:

[Today's Centering prayer is Psalm 78:23-39]

Leader: Yet he commanded the skies above,
and opened the doors of heaven;

**All: he rained down on them manna to eat,
and gave them the grain of heaven.**

Leader: Mortals ate of the bread of angels;
he sent them food in abundance.
He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,
and by his power he led out the south wind;

**All: he rained flesh upon them like dust,
winged birds like the sand of the seas;**

Leader: he let them fall within their camp,
all around their dwellings.

And they ate and were well filled,

All: for he gave them what they craved.

Scripture Reading: John 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together:

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.

Sacrament of Communion¹

Invitation to the Table/Children's Message

What is our daily bread?

Leader: This is Communion. We don't deserve it;
we don't define it; we don't own it;
but it is the greatest gift we have to give
and we want to share it with you.

¹ The communion liturgy was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Holy Communion Liturgy for August 1, 2021," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted July 24, 2021, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2021/07/24/holy-communion-liturgy-for-august-1-2021/> (accessed July 26, 2021).

Hymn: *Bread of Life* by ForeverBeSure

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

Words of Remembering/Joys and Concerns

Christ at our table, we remember.

We remember your "tabling"

at Martha's kitchen and the beach fish-fry

at homes of the self-righteous,

or the disrespected.

Christ at our table, **we remember.**

We remember a wedding made more festive

and we pray for every human relationship touched by joy:

For Hailey Tiner, Candy & Tony's daughter, making the Dean's list

For a vibrant band practice, because being together makes a music of its own

For Cindy's birthday, celebrated with friends and family

For Candy & Tony's 26th wedding anniversary

Christ at our table, **we remember.**

We remember loaves and fish

and pray for places where there is no food

and for people weighed down with concerns

For the people around the world affected by flooding

For the friends and family of Jeff, Sharon's uncle, who passed away while living on the street and destitute

For Mike, Cindy's friend, who is in hospice and is sharing such grace to those around him

For the friends and family of the woman whose body was recovered from the sea near Rev. Cath's parents' house, may they find the closure they've been looking for;

Christ at our table, **we remember.**

We remember Passover, when you washed feet,
shared gravy with a betrayer, and sang a hymn,
and we pray for all who need to learn
how to serve or be served,
how to turn away from temptation
or open up to a song
not only vocalized but heart music.
Christ at our table, **we remember**.

We remember all the tables,
from cathedrals to campgrounds —
where your children have gathered
to eat bread or tortilla, rice cake or cassava,
and we lift into your love
five-star churches
and down-on-their-luck holy-diners.
Christ at our table, **we remember**.

We join in communion with the remembrance of saints
in all times and places,
and lift before you
those we have loved from the past,
our saints who need healing, comfort for loss,
guidance in decisions, peace in living,
and many others in whom the yeast has not yet risen,
though they may feel punched down.
Christ at our table, **we remember**.

Christ, yours is the wheat and yours the grape,
yours is the leaven and the love.
rest your Spirit on this place
of prayer and party, in-person and online,
shine your blessing on every face,
now and whenever food is offered.
Christ at our table, **we remember**.

[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.]

Leader: This is the feast your heart rehearsed,
 eating this bread we break each curse,
 drinking this cup, we do not thirst. Amen

Sharing of the Elements/Reflection on the Scripture

Let's give the crowd in today's reading credit. They've located Jesus and gotten in boats to follow him (John 6:24). They're asking what they need to do to perform the works of God (John 6:28), which isn't a great question, but it's in the right zip code. They want the bread from heaven always (John 6:34). So often in the Bible, the people Jesus talks to can't seem to figure out what he's talking about. But here it feels more like they know they want to grasp whatever it is that Jesus is talking about.

They're asking the question we all ask, what do I have to do to get right with God? We really want something we can cross off a list. And it doesn't work like that. We just have to believe in Jesus and live our lives letting that belief guide what we do. That's an old contrast: do you emphasize faith or works? As if they were opposites. Here Jesus makes it clear that faith *is* work: The crowd asks "What must we do to perform the works of God?" and Jesus replies "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom God has sent." (John 6:29)

To keep faith alive, it needs to be fed. But if you are only fed by big Hollywood miracles, with manna and quails dropping from the sky, with 5,000 people being fed by a few barley loaves and fishes, you're going to go a long time between meals. Jesus is asking the crowd to focus on the right thing. Not on their bellies, but on the true bread of heaven. Which has a lot to do with loving your neighbor and loving God. So we need to train ourselves to see the opportunities to love and be loved. To accept and cherish and welcome and pursue all those moments when we can do something that is our own personal marker that says, this is my neighbor, this is my God, and this me loved by my neighbor and by God.

Which is why we come to this table. Jesus asked us to do this in memory of him. To share and touch and taste the abundance of God. It's pretty amazing to me that I got an invitation to God's table. That's why I struggle a bit with these pre-packaged communion pods. I love that everyone who wants to can have a seat at the table without worrying about what they're eating. That makes the table bigger. But when I eat the bread in the pod, I'll be honest, I'm not tasting the abundance of God. It's more like better living through chemistry. So I added the donut holes in the paper packets. If you want to have those be your bread of heaven in today's sacrament of communion, give it a try.

In the earliest church, they celebrated communion with a potluck supper. In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul has to spell it out. You're supposed to eat together. No one is supposed to go hungry. Don't show up early so the people who come after you don't have anything to eat. Today's potluck can also be a communion meal. It can be a time when we show love for our neighbors and accept the love of our neighbors in the form of food. Last week I invited you to share an experience when you had to do something hard and did it anyway, relying on the love of the

God and the love of neighbors to get you through. As people of faith, it is that kind of work that allows us to build our faith and taste the bread of heaven, through egg and sausage casseroles and through stories of how we let our lives be changed by our faith. It's a pretty great way to be fed.

Leader: We are welcome to this gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

All: We are Christ's family in the Bread we share.

[Eat the bread]

Leader: We are welcome to this gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

All: We are Christ's family in the Cup we share.

[Drink from the cup.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of new covenant and for all the gifts we've been given.

All: We give you thanks, O Christ at our table, for gathering us for word of life and your sacred banquet. As we part from one another with the leftovers of your love, turn our being fed and blessed into holy takeout, as share all we have received, slowly, sweetly and surely with all of your children. Amen.

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

[This is my riff on Psalm 78:23-29.]

Leader: As we head back out into the coming week, we remember that God is at the table with us. Whatever the table: communion, restaurant, operating, statistical, billiards. God is at that table with us,

All: We know we need to remember that God is with us. God is around every table, God gives us our daily bread.

Leader: In the coming days the world will urge us to forget the bread of heaven. The world will try to convince us that the best we can hope for is what we can manage for ourselves.

All: We need to remember that we have been offered so much more.

Leader: We know that God can do impossible things

All: So we do not ask for signs. Because what more do we need than a world that turns seeds into bread?

Leader: In this coming week we will be tempted to walk away from the true bread of heaven,

All: Help us to realize God gives us what we crave.

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: Table of Plenty by Dan Schulte

[Let's sing along and to help us gear up to return to the world.]

Come to the feast of heaven and earth
Come to the table of plenty
God will provide for all that we need
Here at the table of plenty

O come and sit at my table
Where saints and sinners are friends
I wait to welcome the lost and lonely
To share the cup of my love

Come to the feast of heaven and earth
Come to the table of plenty
God will provide for all that we need
Here at the table of plenty

O come and eat without money
Come to drink without price
My feast of gladness will feed your spirit
With faith and fullness of life

Come to the feast of heaven and earth
Come to the table of plenty
God will provide for all that we need
Here at the table of plenty

My bread will ever sustain you
Through days of sorrow and war
My wine will flow like a sea of gladness
To flood the depths of your soul

Come to the feast of heaven and earth
Come to the table of plenty
God will provide for all that we need
Here at the table of plenty

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Psalm 78

In Psalm 78, memory has a clear function in warning the community to learn from its history. In the recital of memory there is hope for the future.

The psalm creates the historical memory of the mighty acts of God, which, when remembered, bring great wonder. This salvation history calls each generation to respond to the divine call for faithfulness.

In this psalm, the recital of history is not so much about passing along information as it is about learning the lessons of that history; that didactic purpose shapes the historical recital. Memory serves hope for the present and future. The historical recitals in Psalm 78 focus on two mistakes of past generations: (1) lack of trust in God to provide in the wilderness and (2) idolatry. Both mistakes reject the living God and the covenant relationship between God and the faith community of ancient Israel. Both have to do with the loss of memory, with forgetting the relationship that gives identity and hope.

For that reason, the remembrance of past impossibilities is especially important. The forgetting of impossibilities means to settle for what is possible, to give up hope, to forget the provisional character of the present and to define the world in terms of what is and can be managed.

It is not simply that we must remember. But we must remember the impossibility in order to maintain critical distance from the world of administered possibilities which robs us of hope, sanctions the present and removes any ability to spot transcendent possibilities.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 336-343.



PRAYER LIST (08/01/21)

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
- Those affected by the corona virus and those working to limit its impact
- 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 people around the world affected by flooding
- For the friends and family of Jeff, Sharon's uncle, who passed away while living on the street and destitute
- For Mike, Cindy's friend, who is in hospice and is sharing such grace to those around him
- For the friends & family of the woman whose body was recovered from the sea near Rev. Cath's parents' house, may they find closure
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning²

Holy One, as I move through this new day, I pray that you will keep me in union with the faith and knowledge of Jesus. I long to mature into the stature of Christ. Help me to speak the truth in love today, that I may grow into him, my savior, my teacher, and my friend, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for being my traveling companion today. Instead of counting sheep as I fall asleep tonight, help me to count all the forms that your manna took as you fed me with the bread of life today. Good night, God. I love you. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

In John 6:26–27, Jesus says that people were looking for him not because they saw signs but because they had eaten their fill of the bread he had multiplied. What do you think he meant? What is “the food that endures for eternal life”?

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

This 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 (with bad weather we'll be in the Social Hall) 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.

Rev. Cath's knee surgery is scheduled for August 26:

Hopefully this time, we'll get it done. With six weeks of recovery, I should be back in the pulpit on October 16th. I'd appreciate everyone's prayers that the operation is successful!

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://nksk.org/project/nksk-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.

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.](#)

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