

The background of the page is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by the Dutch Impressionist painter J.M.W. Turner. The painting depicts a night scene with a turbulent, swirling sky filled with bright, glowing stars and a large, luminous crescent moon. In the foreground, a dark, jagged cypress tree stands on the left. In the middle ground, a small village with a prominent church spire is visible, nestled in a valley. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue, green, and yellow, creating a sense of movement and drama.

Brookline Community Church
November 28, 2021
Reverend Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Prelude: [*Advent – The Hope Candle* by Steelehouse Media](#)

Call To Worship¹

Leader: Awake! Rejoice!
Prepare to meet your God!
Christ is coming. Open the door.
Sweep the path. Prepare the way!

All: **Christ came at Christmas to live as one of us.**
Christ comes today to love us and to lead us.
Christ will come tomorrow, wherever we may be.

Leader: Christ will come when time and space are ended,
And everything returns to God.

All: **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

¹ Today's Call to Worship, Advent Wreath Lighting, Prayer of Joys & Concerns and Prayer to Send Us Back Out into the World are from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayer for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008).

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is shaped in a ring. It shows the circle of God's unbroken love. Each week we will invite a "family" to light the candles in the wreath. This week the Deacons will light the candles to bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

Lighter 1: The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:
"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,
and on earth, distress among nations.
People will faint from fear and foreboding." (*Luke 21:25-36*)

Lighter 2: Because our world is full of fear and distress,
we light our first candle,
trusting that Christ is alive on earth
and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us.
(Light the first candle)

Lighter 1: Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.

All: We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

Hymn: [Light of the World by Lauren Daigle](#)

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):

How do you charge your spiritual batteries.?

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

The response at the end of each petition is **Savior Christ, set us free.**

[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.]

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.

Hymn: [Hope is Here \(Joy to the World\) by Dan Macaulay](#)

Joy to the World
The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room

(Chorus)
Heaven and nature singing
He is our new beginning
Can you hear?
Hope is here
Joy in a baby's birth
Heaven is flooding earth and
God is near
Hope is here

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
He comes to make His blessings flow

(Chorus)

And wonders of His love are on
display
That the King would come for us
This changes everything

(Chorus)

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [The Thrill of Hope by Christy Nockels](#)

Stewardship Witness: Megan King

Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts We've Been Given:

**God of righteousness,
you have saved us from the worst the world can do
and have promised to redeem the whole creation when
Christ comes again**

**In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self,
that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,
as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

Leader: Living Christ, Jesus of Nazareth,
Teacher and Friend, Savior and Lord,
we love you and long for your presence.

**All: As we follow the story of your coming,
touch us by your Spirit,**

Leader: that through people we know

**All: and through people we have yet to meet,
we may hear your voice
and heed your call.**

Leader: In your name we pray.

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."](#)

Postlude: [Hope Has Come by Sovereign Grace Music](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (11/28/21)

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 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 Sue Laub's sister who has stage 4 kidney cancer which has spread. No treatment options left
- Friends and family of Braedon O'Connor
- For Nancy, Yifan's American mom, who is going in for more breast cancer surgery
- For Peter, Catherine's cousin, starting chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer
- For Jean, Candy's grandmother, who's back in the hospital, unable to put weight on a severely swollen foot
- For Cindy, Candy's mom, whose Menier's disease is flaring up and causing distress
- For all those involved in the accident just before the 11/14 service on Main St., injured or responding, that all may be well.
- For all those who lost a beloved animal this week, we experience unconditional love through them,
- For Grant, Bill and Nancy's grandson, who had a scare this week, but is doing fine
- For Trina, Amy's sister's sister-in-law, beginning radiation treatment
- For Clarence Farwell, recovering from a stroke
- For Barbara Dion & Cathy, Cindy's friends, both recovering from Covid
- For Elly Austin, who's been in the hospital this week
- For those suffering from addiction
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning²

Thank you for this new day to sing your praise and watch for signs of your kingdom. By your Spirit, let me abound in love for you and your children, that in living and loving I may point to your coming reign. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you for the signs of your coming reign, and for the power of your saving love. Bless all those whom I met today, and strengthen their hope in your power and grace. Now as I close my eyes, I relinquish all anxieties and fears, trusting in your providence and mercy. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Even in the midst of trouble and turmoil, God allows us glimpses of the kingdom to come. What signs of promise do you see that bolster your hope in a new heaven and a new earth?

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 +/-
October	\$82,708	\$74,561	\$8,147

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

There are several ways to send your offering.

1. Text "GIVE" to 603-506-4455 for your first time. Click "Sign In" then "Register for an Account"

2. Scan the QR code



3. Mail to: Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline, NH 03033.

Want to Stir up Some Soup or Chili for Dec. 5th? Speak to Megan:

We're planning to offer Soup & Chili to go on the evening of December 5th with the Town Tree Lighting. To get the best balance of soups and chilis, spicy and not so spicy, we're asking folks to coordinate with Megan King, kingmegan7@gmail.com.

Unsold Christmas Raffle Tickets due back to Donna by November 30th

If you have any unsold Christmas raffle tickets, please return them to Donna Bretschneider by November 30th. But with 30 raffle prizes, how can there be any tickets left unsold?!?

Christmas Eve Bulletin Dedications due by December 19th

As we learned last year, Covid can make us change our plans very quickly. So we're inviting folks to send in the dedications they would like to have printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin by December 19th (see the form below). We're not going to order individual flowers this year in case everything has to be changed at the last minute.

2022 Calendars on Sale from the Historical Society!

The Brookline Historical Society is selling 2022 Calendars for \$20 at the Library and the Hollis Pharmacy. Email info@brooklinehistory.org for more details.

SHARE-ing the Christmas Spirit with Outreach

Outreach gathered \$1,050+ worth of gifts cards to donate to SHARE. With those cards we sponsored 11 kids and 9 adults, who will have a merrier Christmas because of your generosity.

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.

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:

Spam	Coffee
Juice and juice boxes	Pet food
Canned carrots	Detergent
Rice or noodle sides	

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.

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 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



Poinsettias

This year, the Deacons will be donating a small number of Christmas flowers to help decorate the sanctuary. We look forward to being able to invite the congregation to help us purchase flowers again next year.

For this year however, please fill out the form below and give it to a Deacon (Russell H, Barbara HH, John P, Candy T, Jill A), or email your dedication to Jill at jgoods4@gmail.com. We will include your dedication in the Christmas Eve bulletin, as we have done in past years.

Dedication deadline: Sunday, December 19th.

Placed by: _____

In Memory of: _____

and/or In Honor of: _____

Merry Christmas!

Thank you!

Brookline Community Church 2021 Pledge
Where is Brookline Community Church headed?

- Continue turning our faith into actions that benefit our community
- Deepen our faith through ministry, witness, and shared learning experiences
- Share the fellowship bubbling up among us more broadly within and without
- Learn and practice invitation in traditional and unexpected ways

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____

Street Address: _____

Financial Support:

In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries, I plan to give:

\$_____ each week / month / other _____ (please circle one)

or \$_____ as a one time gift

I understand that this is an estimate of my ability to give and that if circumstances change, I can put a note in the offering plate or contact Treasurer Rena Duncklee to adjust my pledge.

Please return your completed pledge form by Dec 12th, in the offering plate or by mail to:



Brookline Community Church
Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 507
Brookline, NH 03033