



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

Call To Worship¹

Leader: God most particular,
descending from generalities
to show yourself in person,
and speak to John the Baptizer
in a particular time and place,

All: **Make our love for you
as particular and specific
as your love for us,**

Leader: beginning here, beginning now,

All: **through the leveler of mountains
And the straightener of crooked ways,
Jesus Christ
Amen.**

¹ Today's Call to Worship, Advent Wreath Lighting and Prayer of Joys & Concerns 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 Trustees will light the candles to bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

Lighter 1: The Gospel of Luke speaks about God's messenger:
In the fifteenth year
of the reign of Emperor Tiberias, ...
the word of God came to John son of Zechariah
He went into all the region around the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins. (*Luke 3:1-3*)

Lighter 2: God comes to us through particular people,
in particular places and times
in the past, and here and now.
Our second candle reminds us
to look for the light of God
in God's messengers today.

(Light the first candle)

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

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

Hymn: [O Come All Ye Faithful by Martina McBride](#)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| O come, all ye faithful | Glory to God |
| Joyful and triumphant | All glory in the highest |
| O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem | Chorus |
| Come and behold him | O come, all ye faithful |
| Born the king of angels | Joyful and triumphant |
| Chorus | O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem |
| O come, let us adore him | Come and behold him |
| O come, let us adore him | Born the king of angels |
| O come, let us adore him | Chorus |
| Christ the Lord | O come let us adore him |
| Sing, choirs of angels | Christ the Lord |
| Sing in exultation | |
| Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above | |

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):

Are you ready for Christmas?

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:

[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: [O Little Town of Bethlehem by Jewel](#)

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The ever lasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together

Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

O holy child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel!

And peace to men on earth

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

Reflection on the Scripture:

The real crooked and rough places

Hymn: [*Peace on Earth by Paul Baloche*](#)

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

**We are called by God to present a harvest of righteousness—
not by virtue of our own works,
but by the grace of the one who began a good work in us,
and is even now bringing it to completion.**

**Let us ask the God of all righteousness,
to receive these gifts of gratitude,
the offerings of our lives.
so that they may serve God’s purposes
and shine with God’s glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World

Leader: Loving God,
you send us messengers
to cleanse and refine us for your coming.

**All: Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message,
that we may see you
when you suddenly appear among us;**

Leader: We ask this through Jesus Christ.

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: Peace on Earth by Austin French

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (12/5/21)

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 Trina, Amy's sister's sister-in-law, beginning radiation treatment
- For Clarence Farwell, recovering from a stroke
- For Elly Austin, who's recovering in rehab after a pair of strokes
- For those killed and injured in the Christmas parade in Waukesha, WI
- For the friends and family of Belona R. Soans, sister of Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, whose UMC diocese includes the Brookline Community Church
- 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

Blessed are you, Lord God: by your tender mercy the dawn breaks upon us. Guide our feet this day in paths of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Blessed are you, Lord God: for you have smiled on us this day and redeemed us from our sin. Give light to all who wait in darkness until we rest with you in perfect peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

The prophet Malachi says that God is “like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap” (Mal. 3:2). Reflect on events of the past year. How has God been working to refine and purify your life or your community of faith?

Paul writes to the church at Philippi: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil.1:3–5). Think about people in your life for whom you give thanks, who have been in your prayers, and who have brought good news and joy to you this year. Consider writing them a letter or card to express your gratitude.

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.

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.

Looking for help at the 5:00pm & 7:00pm Christmas Eve services

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to greet, drive the elevator, be lay readers, help with the luminaries (putting them out, re-lighting them for the second service, taking them back in). If you're going to be around and would be willing to help, please let Barbara (barbarajh@comcast.net) or Jill (igoods4@gmail.com) know.

Lighting Up the Church with Holiday Lights

We're part of the town's Holiday Lights Spectacular. If you'd like to help everyone get into the holiday mood, please speak with Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) and she'll make sure you have all the power and support you need!

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 is looking for a new Town Welfare Officer starting January 1

The Selectboard is seeking a resident to fill the position of Town Welfare Officer effective January 1st. The position receives an annual stipend of \$6,000.

This is a great opportunity to assist fellow residents in need. The town has established resources, including the Food Pantry and Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund, which provide meaningful resources here in Brookline to help those who need it. If you would like more information about this role, please contact Town Administrator Tad Putney at tputney@brooklinenh.us.

The deadline for applications is December 8, 2021.

Take a minute to think of the folks you know. It's an important position that would be perfect for the right person.

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

Juice and juice boxes

Canned carrots

Rice or noodle sides

Coffee

Pet food

Detergent

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