



*Brookline  
Community Church*

*January 2, 2022*

*Rev. Catherine A.  
Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude:** [\*Another Year is Dawning\* by Jonathan Reed](#)

**Call To Worship<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: Before we speak, God is here,  
within us and among us, knocking at our door.

**All: Living God, open what is closed  
that the Spirit may come in.**

Leader: Open our hands, to give, and to greet,  
Open our minds  
to new truth and old wisdom.  
Open our hearts to new hope and old assurance

**All: Open what is closed  
that the Spirit may come in.**

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

What makes a great Christmas present?

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

**Hymn: [Be Thou My Vision by Selah](#)**

Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

High King of Heaven my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, oh, bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart whatever befall  
Still be my vision, oh Ruler of all

Thou and Thou only first in my heart  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art

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.

**Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:**

The response to "Light of the world" is "**shine in our lives.**"

[For next week, please feel free to send me your joys & concerns and I'll include them in our prayers: [minister@bccnh.org](mailto: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: *Joy Has Dawned* by Stuart Townend**

1. Joy has dawned upon the world  
Promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled  
Hope for every nation  
Not with fanfares from above  
Not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love  
Jesus born of Mary

2. Sounds of wonder fill the sky  
With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life  
Shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place  
Shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast  
Vulnerable and helpless

3. Shepherds bow before the Lamb  
Gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands  
Prophecy the story  
Gold a King is born today  
Incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way  
And by His blood He'll win us

4. Son of Adam Son of heaven  
Given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man  
Christ our mighty Champion  
What a Savior what a Friend  
What a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem  
Now the Lord of history

(Repeat 4)

**Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18, p. 862**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**Hymn: Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come by Jered McKenna**

1. Arise shine for your light has come  
and the glory of God is on you  
Arise see though the earth grows dark  
that the Lord will arise upon you  
The Lord will arise upon you

2. Nations will come to your light  
lift up your eyes and see  
We'll gather together and come to you  
And your love will be all that we know  
Your love will be all that we know

3. Arise come to the open gates  
for the Father is welcoming you  
Fear not for the Lord brings peace  
and redemption to all who believe  
Redemption to all who believe

(Repeat v. 2)

4. The sun will not shine cause  
you'll be all the light that we need  
and violence will end all the wars  
that we wage will cease  
The sun will not shine cause  
you'll be all the light that we need  
and violence will end all the wars  
that we wage will cease  
We will glorify your name  
We will glorify your name.

(Repeat v. 2 two times)

**Sacrament of Communion**

**Words of Institution to remember where we came from**

**Invitation to the Table, to remember where we are**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving, for being where we are**

The response to "With all our heart" is "**We praise you and thank you.**"

**Sharing of the Elements, in this moment**

Come to the light of the world,  
The bread of life  
The fountain of living water.  
All is ready. Come!

**The bread we break**

**Is our communion in the body of Christ,**  
[eat the bread]

**The cup we share**

**Is our communion in the blood of Christ,**  
[drink from the cup]

**Prayer as We Leave the Table, to remember where we're heading**

Living God, Holy One, Holy Three,  
Thank you for feeding us at this table

**As we go, keep us close to you,  
Trusting in your love,**  
And bearing the good news of Jesus Christ,  
**In whose name we pray,  
Amen.**

Hymn: [My Worth is Not in What I Own by Keith & Kristyn Getty featuring Fernando Ortega](#)

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

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your goodness to us is beyond  
the reaches of our imagination,  
a fullness of love that embraces all of life.  
From you we have received grace upon grace.  
Accept our offering for the sake of the world.  
All that we have is yours,  
and all we return to you is but a reflection of your love for us.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Announcements**

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World**

Leader: Alive in Christ, let us live in Christ,  
and lift the name of Christ with love,

**All: not as a sword, but as a cross.**

Leader: Let us use the name of Christ with care,

**All: not as a hammer for hammering  
but as bread for sharing.**

Leader: Let us speak the name of Christ with praise,

**All: not as a battle cry, but as a love song. Amen.**

Leader: 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: *His Name is Wonderful* by Chris Tomlin**

Come see the Baby  
Crib for a Bed  
His mother Mary  
Lay down His sweet head  
The starlight was shining  
The wise men were led  
Come see the baby  
And worship Him

His name is wonderful, counselor  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace  
Everlasting Father  
Emmanuel  
Holy One, Son of God  
Savior of the world

Come and adore Him  
On bended Knee  
He came to Ransom  
Someone like me  
What could I offer  
What could I bring  
Come and adore Him  
King of Kings

His name is Wonderful, Counselor

Mighty God, Prince of Peace  
Everlasting Father  
Emmanuel  
Holy One, Son of God  
Savior of the world

And the greatness of His Reign  
Will never end  
Let there be peace on Earth  
And all goodwill to Men

Come let us worship Him  
His name is wonderful, counselor  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace  
Everlasting Father  
Emmanuel

(You're the) Holy One, Son of God  
Savior of the world

His name is wonderful, counselor  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace  
Everlasting Father  
Emmanuel

(You're the) Holy One, Son of God  
Savior of the world

*Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.*



## PRAYER LIST (1/2/22)

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, Dave Larkin, Braedon O'Connor and Elly Austin.
- 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 the friends and family of Patty, Sue Laub's sister, who passed away in hospice before Christmas
- For Clarence Farwell, recovering from a stroke
- For the friends and family of Doug, Donna's in-law, who passed away from cancer, may they know the love that surrounds them
- For Cindy, Candy's mom, who's had another bad week with Meniere's disease and the vertigo that comes with it
- For the memory of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a light in the darkness
- For Pam Swick, friend of Dorothy & Ray Laneader, who's in the hospital on a ventilator with Covid pneumonia
- For the friends and family of Brian Kurtz, especially his wife Melissa, a friend of Stacey Haight, who was killed in a car crash on Monday.
- 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: Morning<sup>2</sup>**

Loving God, each new day you fill the world with light for our work and recreation. As we go to our daily tasks, teach us to live as your faithful children whose eyes are open to the light of Christ. Where there is uncertainty or falsehood, help us see your truth. Where there is division or conflict, keep us in your love. Enable all that we do or say to bear witness to our inheritance as children of God; through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son. Amen.

## **Household Prayer: Evening**

Holy God, evening falls upon us, but darkness cannot overcome your light. In all that we have faithfully accomplished this day, your light has illumined our way. In all that we have truthfully spoken this day, your wisdom has guided our judgment. In any way we have strayed, may your light reveal our fault and your wisdom correct our folly. Let us rest from our labor, trusting in your love for all your children, and let us begin tomorrow with renewed strength to live according to your will. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

## **Questions for Reflection**

How may I live this day as a child of God who shares in the inheritance of Christ?  
As Christ shines into the darkness of the world around me, what does the Light of Christ allow me to see?

## **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>3</sup>**

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 ...

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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 +/-
November	\$87,251	\$82,800	\$4,451

Please shop [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

### Free Covid Home Tests for NH Residents

Gov. Sununu [announced a program to deliver free Covid home tests to NH residents](#). You just go to [the program's website](#), put in your zip code and then follow the prompts. They're delivered via Amazon.

### Boy Scout Troop 260 Collecting Trees Door to Door 12/30 & 1/8

For a \$10 suggested donation, you can have your tree taken care of once you've enjoyed it for the holidays. Email [brooklinetroop260@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinetroop260@gmail.com) or call (603) 235-1263. [More details](#).

### 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](mailto:info@brooklinehistory.org) for more details.

### Undecorate the Sanctuary on January 9<sup>th</sup>

If you can spare a bit of time after worship on January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Deacons would appreciate the help undecorating the sanctuary.

### 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.

### Brookline Food Pantry

Although we cannot be together physically at this time, Outreach is continuing to work 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.

### **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