



*Brookline
Community Church*

January 23, 2022

*Rev. Catherine A.
Merrill, Minister*

Prelude: [*Living Hope* by Rick Austin Evans](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 19

Leader: To the leader. A Psalm of David.
The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

All: **Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

All: **Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.**

Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

**All: More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Leader: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**All: But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

Leader: Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

**All: Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

**Everyone: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Hymn: [Psalm 19 by The Corner Room](#)

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 we do on keeping promises?

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: [The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me by Brenda Geneau](#)

Chorus:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me
He has anointed me to preach good news
To set the captive free, cause the blind to see
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me

He has given me beauty for ashes
Turned my mourning into joy
He has clothed me with garments of praise
That he may be glorified

I will proclaim the year of the LORD
For he is calling all to come
Come to his table, sit at his feet
For we are justified

Chorus

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD
My soul will exult in my God
For he has given to me salvation
And clothed me in righteousness

Chorus x 3

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:14-30, pp. 835-836

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Reflection on the Scripture

Hymn: *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is Upon You by Divine Hymns*

The Spirit Of The Sovereign Lord Is Upon You
Because He Has Anointed You To Preach Good News x2

He Has Sent You to the Poor
This Is the Year
To Bind Up the Broken-Hearted
This Is the Day
To Bring Freedom to The Captives
This Is the Year
And To Release the Ones In Darkness

This Is the Year Of The Favor Of The Lord
This Is the Day Of The Vengeance Of Our God x2

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord Is Upon Us
Because He Has Anointed Us to Preach Good News x2

He Will Comfort All Who Mourn
This Is the Year
He Will Provide for Those Who Grieve
This Is the Day
He Will Pour Out the Oil Of Gladness
This Is the Year
Instead of Mourning, You Will Praise

This Is the Year of the Favor of the Lord
This Is the Day of the Vengeance of Our God x2

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

**We have given generously from that which has been given to us,
since through our offerings the good news of Jesus Christ may be
fulfilled.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 19)

Leader: Day hands over to day, night to night, the song of creation never ceasing, in leaf rustle and bird call and starry silence,

All: God's love is heard everywhere, and we rush to greet it, like an athlete in top form.

Leader: God's law gives us guidance on how to keep hearing and sharing God's love in this world,

All: God gives us wisdom, clarity, purity, truth, golden and sweet, so our souls revive, our hearts rejoice,

Leader: God steers us away from hidden faults, gives us a way to escape the cynical, helps us identify the pitfalls the world throws in our way. And so we pray,

All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. 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: [May the Words of My Mouth by Tim Hughes](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Psalm 19

Psalm 19 begins with praise of the creator. In an age of ever-increasing technology in the Western world, the attitude of many is how to exploit nature for human convenience. The militant consumerism of contemporary society feeds off of that attitude. The psalm imagines the world as a divine creation and so suggests the question of how humans can best be stewards of this gift.

In the poetic imagination of this psalm, both creator and creation relate to humans. The poetic movement is from the creation, to divine instruction, to a concluding petition. Women and men are created to be part of God's creation and not independent from it. With the sequence of creation-*torah*-petition, the poetic model suggests that readers live in response to divine direction. Poetic meditation on divine instruction leads to prayer.

The poetic model is not unlike the narrative in Genesis 2-3 in which God creates humanity and provides instruction. The human response is of considerable consequence. The divine instruction purposes life, healthy community life in hope. In that sense, *torah* is a delightful gift, part of the creator's provision for full living.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 100-103.



PRAYER LIST (1/23/22)

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, Braedon O'Connor, Elly Austin and Patty Birner.
- 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 Judith Atherton, recovering from cardiac surgery
- For Clarence Farwell, recovering from a stroke
- For Liz Fitzgerald, a member of the Brookline community, who lost her daughter Abigail, may she know the love that surrounds her
- 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: Morning¹

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day. Help me to stay attentive to your creation and mindful of your teachings as I travel through it. Empower me to see and spread the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Holy One, thank you for the gift of today. Thank you for all the ways that I saw your glory and learned your teachings, beyond speech and words, in the course of this day. As I drift to sleep this night, draw me closer to you, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

The Old Testament “year of jubilee” to which Jesus refers in his first sermon—what some have called his “mission statement”—was a time set aside every fifty years to forgive financial debt and redistribute the land among the people. Why do you think God envisioned a year of jubilee, and what might that look like in our world today?

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 +/-
December	\$100,731	\$89,522	\$11,209

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.

Covid Vaccination Clinic – Sun. 1/23, 9-4

The original date of this event has been moved to **Sunday, January 23rd** based on guidance from the state. This event will be held at CSDA (24 Townsend Hill Road) for additional indoor space.

Please see [the online flyer](#) for more information. No advanced registration needed, but arrivals are based on the first letter of last name:

"A" thru "M" - from 9am to 12:30pm

"N" thru "Z" - from 12:30pm to 4pm

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.

Reading Together During Epiphany

We've decided to read Andy Weir's *Project Hail Mary*. We also decided to meet in person in Fellowship Hall (but I can add a zoom meeting if you want to try that). We'll decide what time to meet for the next session at each session.

Our plan looks like:

January 30, 11:30am: Chapters 1-7
February 13: Chapters 8-14

February 27: Chapters 15-22
March 13: Chapters 23-end

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.

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.

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

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:

Juice boxes
Pop tarts
Pet food

Fruit snacks
Perishables (meat, eggs, bread,
cheese)

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.