



*Brookline
Community Church*

February 6, 2022

*Rev. Catherine A.
Merrill, Minister*

Prelude: [New Life by Olivia Branch Walker](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 138

Leader: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;

All: before the gods I sing your praise;

Leader: I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.

**All: On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.**

Leader: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

All: For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.

Leader: The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me;
All: your steadfast love, O LORD, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Hymn: [Psalm 138 - In the Sight of the Angels - Francesca LaRosa](#)

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):

What did you get in your net?

Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:¹

[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.

¹ Today's pastoral prayer comes from the UMC Daily Prayer of December 31, 2021 written by Rev. Karen L. Munson, DMIN, Many Waters District Superintendent, inspired by Jeremiah 31:7-14

Hymn: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus by Lydia Walker*

I have decided to follow Jesus (x3)
No turning back, no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross
before me (x3)
No turning back, no turning back.

3. Tho' none go with me, still I will
follow (x3)

No turning back, no turning back.

4. Will you decide now to follow
Jesus? (x3)
No turning back, no turning back.

5. I have decided to follow Jesus (x3)
No turning back, no turning back.

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: He Leadeth Me

1. He leadeth me, O blessed thought
O words with heavenly comfort fraught
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me

Chorus

He leadeth me, he leadeth me
By his own hand he leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be
For by his hand he leadeth me

2. Lord, I would clasp thine hand in
mine

Nor ever murmur nor repine
Content, whatever lot I see
Since 'tis thine hand that leadeth me

Chorus

3. And when my task on earth is done
When by thy grace the victory's won
Even death's cold wave I will not flee
Since God through Jordan leadeth me

Chorus

4. For by his hand he leadeth me
Every day he leadeth me
Through the night he leadeth me
He leadeth me

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

We are invited to cast our nets into God's abundance,
and to share what we have received with others.

With our gifts,

we put our trust in the one who has called us to follow him:

Jesus Christ, the great Fisher of people.

Loving God, bless our gifts and multiply them,

for the sake of those in need around us;

in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Announcements

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

Leader: You saved me from calamity, O Lord, and I am grateful to the bottom of my heart

All: On the day I called, you answered me, you strengthen my soul.

Leader: Unlike the high and mighty of this world, you hear the cries of the little people like me, even when bite back our words, afraid of causing a ruckus.

All: Even when I walk into the heart of enemy territory, even when that territory is the darkness of my own heart, you are with me.

Leader: You stretch out your strong hand and deliver me from all that seeks to batter and scatter me

All: Give me what I need to fulfill your purpose for me. Help me to remember you will always hold me, the work of your hands. 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: [For the Cause by Keith & Kristyn Getty](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Psalm 138

Psalm 138 asks us to remember and experience again God's steadfast love and trustworthiness. God comes to deliver us, and so the community is called to share the story of liberation for all to hear and see. The psalm offers thanksgiving, though it is clear that the world is still filled with trouble and woe. Opposition to God and those who worship God is ever present but so are praise and thanksgiving in this community, where God continues to hear their cries.

The psalm begins with a personal fourfold song of praise:

I thank I sing I bow down I thank

The psalm then declares that God is great in regal power and splendor (v. 5). Kings should take notice. That is, by their own norms, they are able to see this God as extraordinary. But in this new world, verse 6 contains the evangelical surprise. God is high, but attends to the lowly. Characteristically kings and gods are high, but do not notice the lowly. This verse, the ground of the entire thanksgiving, is revolutionary in its disclosure. Mention of the high, the lowly, the haughty introduces political reality into the prayer. We see the seeds of social transformation when we see this reality.

Heaven and earth are now on notice because of this concrete experience. A new regime is underway that no longer permits lowly people to be trampled. Because God makes the move, everything else will have to change. In the last line, the "work of your hands" is none other than the lowly who owe their whole life to this one who intervenes in unheard of and unexpected ways.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 131-132.



PRAYER LIST (2/6/22)

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 Melissa Kurz, a Stacey Haight's friend, who lost her husband in a car accident right after Christmas, whose broken heart is affecting her eating.
- For the friends & family of Bob Rando, Amy's friend, that they might know the love that surrounds them.
- 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

God, I give you thanks this morning as I watch the beauty of the newborn light, listen to the first stirrings of a new day in nature, and ponder the miracle of my own breathing and your presence in it all.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Increase my strength of soul today. And whenever I see a need, help me to respond, "Send me!" Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of this day. Like the fisher folk who became disciples, I have put in a day of work. As evening comes, it is time to rest. If, as I review my day, I am tempted to say, "I am not worthy of your presence, God," reassure me with the calming words of Jesus, "Do not be afraid, come be with me." Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Sometimes we are afraid to tell others about our experiences of the holy and about God's call in our lives, because we don't want to annoy or oppress others. There is a difference between witnessing through indoctrination and witnessing through acts of compassion. How do you witness to others about your faith?

The disciples had already fished all night without catching anything; what quality or characteristic in Peter might have helped him "give it another try" when Jesus invited him to cast his net again? What quality or characteristic within you helps you to keep trying, to start again, after disappointment or even failure?

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 +/-
January	\$9,155	\$9,686	-\$531

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.

Call to Annual Meeting on February 6

The Brookline Community Church will be holding its [2022 Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 11:15 am. The meeting will be preceded by a Zoom worship service at 10:00 am.](#) The primary purpose of this meeting will be a review of our 2021 operations and ministry. We will also vote on the nominations to our boards and the 2022 budget.

This year's Annual Meeting will be an opportunity for continued conversation about our life together as the Body of Christ during these pandemic/endemic times. Please join us as we discuss the financial constraints imposed by these uncertain times, acknowledge the work we have already done in developing strategies to adjust and respond to this new age of ministry, and prepare ourselves for our future ministry together.

This discussion and vote are part of the church's ongoing discernment of God's call and mission and require a quorum to transact this business.

We hope to see you there!

Starting Off 2022 with Love to the Nashua Soup Kitchen

Happy 2022! Outreach is gearing up for another prosperous year of giving and supporting our neighbors and communities that are in need.

The Nashua Soup Kitchen is a private, non-profit organization providing food, emergency shelter, housing, and advocacy to poor and homeless men, women and families with children in our community. They serve breakfast & dinner daily,

supply food from their food pantry and provide emergency family shelter. Seasonal programs like the garden club, backpack & birthday programs, clothing, and stocking their library with books are just some of the other ways they support individuals & families in need.

Outreach is asking for the following donations in any sizes to be dropped off by **Friday Feb 18th**:

Shampoo	Toothpaste & toothbrushes
Body wash & Bars of Soap	Deodorant

You may place these items in the plastic bin outside the church by the side door, inside the basket in the front hall or drop off in person on Friday Feb 11th between 1:00-5:00 PM.

If you would like to make a monetary donation you can mail a check to the Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline NH 03033 and note that this is for the Nashua Soup Kitchen Drive.

Questions? Contact Amy Razzaboni at 603-801-9210 or arazz3914@gmail.com

Free Covid Home Tests

1. 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.
2. The federal government will deliver four tests to your home. Just enter your details on a special [US Post Office web page](#).

Take Home Meals: Shepherd's Pies & Lemon Bread available AND Mac & Cheese with Tomato Soup on the side coming up on Feb 11!

What could be more delicious and easier than stocking up on take home meals.

In February, we'll be supporting the Nashua Soup kitchen. We'll have more updates to share what we're looking for.

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:

February 13, 11:30/after coffee hour: Chapters 8-14	February 27: Chapters 15-22 March 13: Chapters 23-end
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Warm Clothes Drive at the Brookline Hollis High School

The Hollis Brookline High School Democrats are sponsoring a warm clothing drive for local residents and Afghani refugees. They're looking for new or gently

worn warm clothes. If you have any to donate, please bring them to church on 1/30 and Melanie Levesque will deliver them.

Brookline Fishing Derby on February 20th!

There are prizes and everything! See [the flyer](#) for details and registration form.

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:

Milk, eggs, cheese

Breads

Juice boxes

Bottled water

Women's razors and shaving cream

Batteries

Flash lights

Cleaning products

Sponges, paper towels,

Vitamins for women, men and children

Cold and cough medicine

Also, if anyone can donate can openers, some of our families need can openers for all of the canned goods that we provide

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.