



*Brookline  
Community Church*

*February 13, 2022*

*Rev. Catherine A.  
Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude:** [\*He Leads the Way\* by Carl de Guzman](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 1**

Leader: Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**All: but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,

**All: which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.**

Leader: The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**All: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Hymn:** [\*Psalm 1 The Two Ways\* by Jason Silver](#)

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 makes you feel secure?

### **Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:**

The response to "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord," is "**whose trust is the Lord.**"

[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: [Blessed Assurance by The Worship Zone](#)**

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of his Spirit, washed in His  
blood

Chorus

This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight  
Visions of rapture now burst on my  
sight  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

Chorus

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His  
love.

Chorus

**Scripture Reading: Luke 6:17-26, p. 838**

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

**Reflection on the Scripture:**

**Hymn: The Beatitudes Song by Jess Chamblee**

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit  
Those who see the sin in their hearts  
Blessed are the ones who are  
weeping  
'Cause sin has torn the whole world  
apart

2. Blessed are the meek and humble  
God will freely give them all things  
Blessed are the ones who are hungry  
And thirst for justice and wait on their  
King

Chorus  
We are the salt of the earth  
We're gonna to shake, shake, shake  
like a salt shaker  
We are the light of the world  
So we're gonna to shine, shine, shine  
'til the night's no more  
We're gonna to shine, shine, shine 'til  
the night's no more

3. Blessed are the merciful  
Whose sins are forgiven so they can  
forgive  
Blessed are the pure in heart  
God will show His face to them

Chorus

4. Blessed are the ones who make  
peace  
Loving others with the Savior's love  
Blessed are those bullied for their  
faith

Great in God's kingdom will be their  
reward

Chorus x2

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

**Holy One, bless and multiply the gifts we give  
as tokens of our trust in you.  
Use them to bless the poor,  
feed the hungry, and comfort those who weep;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Announcements**

## **A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (today's riff on Psalm 1)<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: Assist me to hold onto my happiness in you, O LORD, and not go walking and standing and sitting and then tearing around all over again to find it.

**All: You have provided your law, your teachings, for me to reflect on, to live into, to ground myself in.**

Leader: Let me be like trees that have been transplanted where they have all the rich resources they need,

**All: So I can bear fruit in its season (not all the time, but when the time is right) and provide something to my community (not everything, but what is right for me)**

Leader: The wicked are rootless, they have no connection to the true source of life, they are so easily blown away in a community that works together.

**All: Zero in on me and the path I am walking, O LORD. Keep me moving always toward you. 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."*

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<sup>1</sup> In Hebrew, the first verse of Psalm 1 begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet and the last verse begins with the last letter. So in my riff, I offered a nod to the idea that the whole world and all of wisdom can be encompassed in a prayer.

**Postlude: Lovingkindness by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa**

1. Let praises now awake the dawn  
We'll greet Your mercy with a song  
Your people stand and sing for all  
Your lovingkindness  
You've carried us in faithfulness  
Upon the paths of righteousness  
Our gracious King, You've crowned  
us with  
Your lovingkindness

Chorus

How great is your lovingkindness  
Oh God of goodness  
Our joy forever to sing the glad  
refrain  
Of grace that saved us of sweet  
forgiveness  
Oh oh, how great is Your  
lovingkindness

2. You lift us with a father's hand  
You shelter us with Your commands  
What heart could fully comprehend

Such mercies endless  
You lead us through the shadows  
deep  
Where doubts trace ev'ry step it  
seems  
But as the darkness breaks, we'll see  
The morning promise

Chorus

3. A life laid down to rescue us  
With arms outstretched upon the  
cross  
The greatest gift there ever was  
Of lovingkindness  
A life laid down to rescue us  
With arms outstretched upon the  
cross  
The greatest gift there ever was  
Of lovingkindness  
Your lovingkindness

Chorus

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

## Psalm 1

Psalm 1 is placed at the beginning intentionally to set the tone for the entire collection. It announces that the primary agenda for our worship life is obedience, to order and conduct all of life in accordance with God's purpose and creation. The fundamental contrast of this psalm is a moral distinction between righteous and wicked, innocent and guilty, those who conform to God's purpose and those who ignore those purposes and disrupt the order. Human life is not mocked or trivialized. How it is lived is decisive.

The structure of the psalm reflects the unambiguous structure of life as the tradition of obedience understands it. There is no middle ground, no neutral ground. Either be a happy person who enjoys obedience to God's law and avoids alternative enterprises (vv. 1-2), or be like the wicked who refuse such delight (v. 4). Either end up like a luxuriant tree with plenty of nourishment (v. 3), or be like chaff which disappears (v. 4). Life consists of choices which are not obscure (vv. 5-6). There will be a judgment. One can stand or one can perish. But either way, it will be on the terms of the Creator. The connection between devotion and destiny is not negotiable.

Psalm 1 does not bargain or allow for ambiguity. It is the voice of a community that is familiar with risks, dangers, costs, and boundaries. It fully appreciates the givenness of God's world and has confidence that obeying God's law is the only thinkable response to the givenness of creation.

Psalm 1 expects a great deal. The psalms that follow bring that ideal into contact with the real world. But by the end of the book of Psalms, the community's obedience has brought it to joyful praise of God's loving kindness.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 38-39.



## PRAYER LIST (2/13/22)

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 Jeffrey Hammond, a relative of Susan Haight, recovering from serious injuries when a tree fell on his garage during the ice storm
- For Polly, John Panto's sister, recovering from a stroke. While she's making progress, being in the ICU is limiting the amount of support the family can provide.
- 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>**

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of this new day. Guide my steps as I face choices to care for the earth or not, to show compassion toward others or not, to care for myself or not, to be true to Christ or not. May each of my choices draw me closer to you. Amen.

## **Household Prayer: Evening**

Tonight I come home to you in prayer, my God. Thank you for guiding me through this day, even when I was not conscious of it. Now I give this day back to you, entrusting all that I did and all that I left undone to your compassionate care. May I rest in peace. Amen.

## **Questions for Reflection**

One commentator on Luke 6:17–26 writes, “‘Blessed’ (*makarios*) does not simply describe a state of happiness or bliss. Rather, it refers in a theological sense to one’s standing before God (Deut. 33:29; Pss. 1:1; 40:4).” As you reflect on the blessings and woes in Luke’s Gospel and on the use of the word “happy” in Psalm 1:1 and “blessed” in Jeremiah 17:7, how does this meaning of “blessed” or “happy” contrast with contemporary uses of this word, even by some preachers? What is one change you can make in your own life before God that would bring you into closer accord with Jesus’ understanding of blessedness?

## **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 +/-
January	\$9,155	\$9,686	(\$531)

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.

### Helping Keep the Church Safe and Welcoming, aka Shoveling

The Trustees are looking for folks to help shovel out the church. While the lot is plowed, we need to clear the walkways and the steps as well. We can offer a warmer welcome if getting in is safe and easy. Please contact [Susan Haight](mailto:susan@brooklinechurch.org) via email or 603-582-0964 if you could take a turn.

### 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

Body wash & Bars of Soap

Toothpaste & toothbrushes

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](mailto:arazz3914@gmail.com)

### **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 contact [Melanie Levesque](mailto:Melanie Levesque) via email to arrange a pick up.

### **Brookline Fishing Derby on February 20<sup>th</sup>!**

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

### **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

### **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.

### **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