



Prelude: [*Desire of My Heart \(Psalm 37\)*](#) by Christopher-David

Call To Worship, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Leader: Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.

All: **Trust in the LORD, and do good;**
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Leader: Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

All: **Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;**
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

Leader: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

All: Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place,
they will not be there.

**But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight in abundant prosperity.**

Leader: The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

All: **The LORD helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.**

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

Who makes the rules?

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: [Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive by Becky Messer](#)

1. 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

2. How can your pardon reach and
bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!

4. Lord, cleanse the depths within
our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Repeat Verse 1

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.

Sacrament of Communion¹

Invitation to the Table

Leader: Who will come to this table ...
to celebrate care in illness, comfort in sorrow,
healing beyond curing, peace in forgiveness,
hope in times of fear or threat?

All: Here we are. We will come.

Leader: Who will come to this table,
having abundance,
as culture defines it or your heart knows it,
and because you have discovered
your own generosity
and need to start giving?

All: Here we are. We will come.

Leader: Who will come to this table,
willing to be welcomed,
even when that is awkward,
willing to be served,
not a server, or planner of the menu,

and willing to welcome
anybody, anybody, anybody
who sits beside you ...
willing to offer welcome
even expecting it to be rejected,
and, if it is, offer again?

**All: Here we are. We will come,
with our regrets and dreams of angels,
with our healed lips and lives.**

¹ The communion liturgy was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Holy Communion Liturgy for February 6, 2022," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted January 27, 2022, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2022/01/27/holy-communion-liturgy-for-february-6-2022/> (accessed February 27, 2022).

Words of Remembering

Leader: Jesus of Nazareth came to the lakeshore,
borrowed a boat and reached out to people
by offering words to remember
and food to eat.

The words called them to follow
and the food was from deep places.

Jesus comes still to stormy waters
and food deserts,
to borrow the leaky rowboat
(we wish was more like a cruise ship)
that we call the church,
and use it to offer words
that change human lives,
and sustenance that saves them.

We remember that Jesus knew,
when it was the last Passover,
that only a few words were needed,
and the simplest meal prepared,

Jesus blessed, broke, poured, shared,
and whispered ... "For You."

Prayer of Consecration

Leader: Gentle Host, rest upon us as you rested upon wave and deep.
Speak into our lives a Word made flesh. Send your Spirit of life and
love, power and blessing upon your children that this bread may be
broken and gathered in love and this cup poured out to give hope to
all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us,
that we may breathe in you. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Let us join as one though we are in many places
and receive the gift of God, the bread of heaven.

All: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.
[Eat the bread]

Leader: Let us with our many needs and many blessings,
receive the gift of God, the cup of blessing.

All: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.
[Drink from the cup.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Spirit of Christ, we give thanks for this grace from our long and deep heritage of sanctuary Eucharists and shelter meals, fish fry picnics and IV dripping from a pole, and from our personal memories of words that have been generous, brave, helpful, holy. Wrap your gentle presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing or strength. Receive each of our personal commitments to go forth for you, and also borrow from this community of faith the ways to row out to all your children in the world. Amen.

Hymn: [Unity Hymn by Mike Donehey](#)

Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27-38, p. 838

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

‘If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

‘Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.’

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [Forgiven by Sovereign Grace Music](#)

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

**Holy God, you have given us land in which to grow and thrive,
food for survival and pleasure,
air and water, fire and cold.
Make our thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others
in the name of the one who gave everything for us. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (today's riff on Psalm 37)²

Leader: Assist me to decide what I believe in, O LORD. The prosperity of the wicked or the providence of God.

All: Break me open so I can hold on to the blessing you have given all of us, like the land alive under a blanket of snow.

Leader: Call me to live into the promise that the meek will inherit the earth,

All: Despite the fact that it just doesn't look like that's ever going to happen in this world.

Leader: Ease my mind and keep me from getting hot and bothered, fired up with rage and jealousy when the wicked seem to get so much more than their share.

All: Find the strength for me to believe that one day I'll look up and the evil people won't be there any more, and the land and all your blessings are shared with everyone, no exceptions.

Leader: God of great reversals, who promises to restore everything to the righteous, no matter what our daily experience says, you offered us the reality and triumph of the cross.

All: Help us to care for each other until we see the great change you have promised. Rescue us soon, O LORD. You are our refuge. Amen

Leader: In the name of the Lord, 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: [Brand New Life by Colton Dixon](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

² In Hebrew, Psalm 37 is written as an acrostic, with each stanza beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. So in my riff, I did the same, to try to offer the same insight that there is an underlying order to the world we don't always notice.

Psalm 37

In this psalm, the problem is the prosperity of the wicked. The contrast between the righteous and the wicked is central to this text, which is a kind of meditation on the problem that the wicked seem to be doing well in life. The psalm puts the question in terms of a faith choice: Do you believe in the prosperity of the wicked or in the providence of God? Contemporary readers need to tread carefully, however. The psalm is not a piece of theory that articulates a universal structure of reality. It is rather a pragmatic homily on how to live in the face of the observation that the wicked seem to prosper.

The psalmist also speaks of the faithful inheriting the land. This shouldn't be taken in a literal sense but as a symbol of a full life. In living faithfully, one finds wholeness. The psalm may be an educational tool for the young to urge youth to live faithfully.

Some readers may be tempted to dismiss Psalm 37 as naïve or even misleading in portraying life as just. The poem is more nuanced, however. The psalm admits that one can observe life and see the wicked succeed. It admits that an honest view of life brings troubling questions and does not advance all the answers. At the same time, the poem believes, based on life experience, that God is trustworthy. The justice (vv. 6 and 28) and faithfulness of God are at the heart of this meditation. The psalm does not exhibit a triumphalist tone, but it tenaciously holds onto the trustworthiness of God in the long view.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 180-186.



PRAYER LIST (2/20/22)

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 Les & Elaine Reed, Barbara's neighbors, as Les enters long-term hospice at home as the last stage of his cancer treatment
- 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: Morning³

In the morning when I rise, O God, you are with me strong and sure, turning my dreams into insights and teaching me the delights of your law. You preserve my life day after day, and in return, I rejoice at the new dawn. Guard my waiting this day, O Lord, guide my feet and my hands, give me stillness and patience so that I may give delight to myself and to those I meet; in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, throughout this day you have rescued us from harm and despair, giving us instead the joy of accomplishment and fellowship with our family and friends. Protect us through the night, Holy One, that in our dreams we will not be shaken but will see you face to face and wake renewed. We take refuge in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

How has God sent you to be a preserver of what is good and healthy?

How is your family living up to the wisdom that Joseph showed in caring for the people of Egypt and, eventually, even his own kin?

Daily Awareness Reflection⁴

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 ...

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

Getting the Basement Ready for Insulation, February 19

We're planning to insulate the basement to keep the heat in and the critters out. We're looking for some help getting everything that needs to go out of the basement this Saturday. Please contact [Susan Haight](mailto:susan@brooklinechurch.org) via email or 603-582-0964 if you could help, even for a short spell.

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.

Save the Date: Discerning When God is Calling the Church, 3/20, after coffee hour

We'd like to begin a time of discussion to discern where God is calling our church to go and grow. We want to explore questions like:

- What have we learned in this time of turmoil and change?
- Who is today's Brookline Community Church?
- What do our choices reveal about what we truly want to be?

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

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 via email to arrange a pick up.

Brookline/Hollis Candidates Forum: February 24th at 7:00pm

A candidates forum will be held for school and town positions in the town hall meeting room on Thursday, February 24th beginning at 7pm. [More details & the Zoom link.](#)

Brookline Fishing Derby on February 20th!

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](#).

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 27, 11:30/after coffee hour:
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:

Ensure or similar (other than Chocolate)	Paper Towels
Carrots	Kitchen Sponges
Condiments (other than ketchup and mustard)	Dishwasher Detergent
Mayo	Contact Solution
BBQ Sauce	Shaving Cream
Flour	XL Overnight Men's Undergarments
Shortening	Luv's Size 4 Diapers
	Pampers Water Wipes (baby wipes)

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