



*Brookline Community  
Church*

*February 27, 2022*

*Rev. Catherine A.  
Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude:** [Holy/Psalm 99 by Mark Baldwin, featuring Leeanne Albrecht](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 99**

Leader: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!  
The LORD is great in Zion;  
he is exalted over all the peoples.

**All: Let them praise your great and awesome name.  
Holy is he!**

Leader: Mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity;  
you have executed justice  
and righteousness in Jacob.

**All: Extol the LORD our God;  
worship at his footstool.  
Holy is he!**

Leader: Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.  
They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.

**All: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his decrees,  
and the statutes that he gave them.**

Leader: O LORD our God, you answered them;  
you were a forgiving God to them,  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

**All: Extol the LORD our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain;  
for the LORD our God is holy.**

Hymn: [Psalm 99 by Sons of Korah](#)

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):**

Why would we leave the mountain top?

**Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:<sup>1</sup>**

[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.

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<sup>1</sup> Today's Prayer of Joys and Concerns was inspired by Rev. Brigid Farrell of the United Church of Thetford VT, a member of the Green Mountain District Committee on Ordained Ministry who offered the UMC's Daily Prayer from the New England Conference on February 21, 2022.

**Hymn: Transfigure Us, O Lord by Bob Hurd**

Refrain:	Light for those in darkness,
Transfigure us, O Lord.	The hungry have their fill,
Transfigure us, O Lord.	Glad tidings for the humble,
Break the chains that bind us;	The healing of all ills;
Speak your healing word, and	In these we glimpse your glory,
Where you lead we'll follow.	God's promises fulfilled
Transfigure us, O Lord.	Refrain
Down from heights of glory,	To the holy city,
Into the depths below.	Jerusalem, you go;
The love of God self-emptied,	Your face set toward the ending
The love of God to show.	The cross to be your throne
You light the path before us,	Shall we journey with you and
The way that we must go.	share your paschal road?
Refrain	Refrain x2

**Scripture Reading: Luke 9:28-43a, p. 843**

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

### **Reflection on the Scripture:**

**Hymn:** [Christ, Be Our Light by Bernadette Farrell](#)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to you  
Make us your own, your holy people  
Light for the world to see

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today

Longing for peace, our world is  
troubled

Longing for hope, many despair  
Your word alone has pow'r to save  
us

Make us your living voice

Refrain

Longing for food, many go hungry  
Longing for water, many still thirst  
Make us your bread, broken for  
others  
Shared until all are fed.

Refrain

Longing for shelter, many are  
homeless  
Longing for warmth, many are cold  
Make us your building, sheltering  
others  
Walls made of living stone

Refrain

Many the gifts, many the people  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

Refrain

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

**Holy are you, O Lord!**

**We praise your great and awesome name.**

**Use us, and these our gifts, in your service,  
to establish justice, righteousness, and equity,  
all for the good of your people  
and the glory of your eternal realm. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (today's riff on Psalm 99)**

**Leader:** God reaches out to the whole world, a ruler to care for everyone.

**All:** **Let everyone know that God is set apart, not *from us* but *with us*, unlike any earthly ruler.**

**Leader:** Free us from the smallness of our concept of justice

**All:** **Transform us into people who can practice true equality and fairness.**

**Leader:** Unite all of us to worship in the true temple of God, caring for each other and the creation God gave us.

**All:** **God heard Moses and Aaron and Samuel praying and answered their prayers. Let us open our hearts to serve God in the same way.**

**Leader:** Let us imagine again life with God as king, a life centered on the honest dialogue of faith and a community based on justice and mercy.

**All:** **Forgive us our wrong doings, O God, and avenge those who have wronged us.**

**Leader:** Help us to remember and imagine what is possible in this world.

**All:** **Help us to expand our relationship with the Lord our God who is so holy and beyond description.**

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: The Change in Me by Casting Crowns**

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

### **Psalm 99**

The hymn begins with the enthronement formula “The LORD is King.” The correct response is cosmic trembling, since this king shakes loose all old forms of governance.

The celebration of God’s kingship is articulated in verses 1b-5. This section of the psalm nicely interweaves the two basic traditions of Israel. On the one hand, there is the Jerusalem tradition of God’s presence and attentiveness to the Israelite establishment. On the other hand, there is the Mosaic tradition of liberation, which is expressed as agent of “equity, justice and righteousness” for radical social transformation. The kingship of God combines the assurance of presence and the abrasion of liberation, refusing to let us choose between these accents.

Verses 6-7 link God’s kingship more decisively to the oldest tradition of Moses and Aaron, referring to the wilderness sojourn and to the Sinai commandments. Samuel is remembered as the one who insisted on the kingship of God in order to resist all human kings, whom he regarded as pretenders and as threats to and diminishment of the kingship of God.

The last element of the psalm (vv. 8-9) states the two-sidedness of this awesome kingship: God forgives, and God punishes. The juxtaposition is resolved in verse 9 with one more summons to worship. This is a call to the temple, for God’s overriding characteristic is holiness. The temple provides the means and opportunity for a meeting with the holy one. God’s enthronement makes holy presence accessible and makes righteous will more urgent. Neither emphasis can be minimized without distorting who this ruling one is.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 148-149.



## PRAYER LIST (2/27/22)

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.
- 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 Leslie Fife, Susan Haight's relative, who is ending dialysis, rather than continuing to struggle.
- For Luca, Amy's nephew, who's having a port put in to make his monthly treatments easier on him.
- For the Tiners, who are remembering the anniversary of Pat Tiner's death
- For those suffering from addiction
- For Cassandra's dad, Cindy's friend, who's been released from hospice as his recovery progressed much further than expected; may his recovery continue!
- 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>**

Lord Jesus Christ, as morning dawns, be our light in this new day. Let our lives reflect your glory, our words show forth your goodness, and our actions shine with your grace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

Lord Jesus Christ, as evening comes, be our light and hope in darkness. Draw near to us in grace, surround us with your presence, and fill us with your peace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

Look at Luke 9:35: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Where have you heard words like these before in the Gospels? (Hint: see Luke 3:22.) Where have you heard words like these in your own life? When have you had a strong sense of being chosen, claimed, and called by God? How have you responded?

### **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.

### Basement Insulation going in on March 24

Thanks to the crew who helped get the ... stuff ... cleared out of the basement. We're ready for the insulation folks to come in March and get the basement buttoned up. Please contact [Susan Haight](mailto:susan@brooklinechurch.org) via email or 603-582-0964 if you have any questions.

### 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?

### 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@brooklinechurch.org) via email to arrange a pick up.

## 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:                      March 13: Chapters 23-end  
Chapters 15-22

## 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