



*Brookline Community Church*

*April 10, 2022*

*Rev. Catherine A. Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude**

**The Joyful Welcome**

**Call To Worship, Luke 19:35-40**

Leader: They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

**All: As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.**

Leader: As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

**All: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

Leader: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered them:

**All: "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."**

**\*HYMN #203 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"**

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.

## The Time of Fellowship

### Overview of Holy Week

### Announcements

### Reception of New Members

### Invitation

### Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

### Question about Participation

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidates: I promise, with the help of God.**

### Welcome & Reception

Pastor: Let us, the members of the Brookline Community Church express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

### Prayer for the Keeping of the Covenant

### Presentation of Gifts

In the tradition of the early church, new members were received on Easter. They were given gifts to help them flourish in their new lives in Christ. We would like to continue that ancient tradition.

## **Sacrament of Communion**

After presenting new members with gifts, the early church would then celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Table. Then, as now, it reminded everyone assembled that they were one family, with one aim of remembering and serving God.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

**All: We believe in God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. But we can act against those beliefs at time, even as we are surrounded by members of the household of God.**

Pastor: We can act against our beliefs and we can repent of those actions.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**\*HYMN: #568 "Take My Life and Let it Be Consecrated"**

### **Passing of the Peace (from front to back)**

Today would be the perfect day to use that most ancient of Christian welcomes "*Peace be with you*" to which one responds, "*and also with you.*"

Rev. Cath will start it from the front of the church and then invite you to stand in your pews and rotate to share the peace of Christ without shaking hands.

### **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.

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

**Holy One,**

**we give you thanks for the great deeds of salvation that you have done and continue to do.**

**Bless these offerings of thanksgiving that they may further your kingdom in this world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **The Beginning of the Journey to the Cross**

### **Luke 23:1-12, p. 859**

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, 'We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.' Then Pilate asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' He answered, 'You say so.' Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no basis for an accusation against this man.' But they were insistent and said, 'He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.'

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

### **Reflection**

**\*HYMN: #213 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", verse 1**

### **Luke 23:13-16, p. 859**

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.'

### **Prayer of Pilate: A confession (unison)**

**Holy God, forgive us the auto-Pilate in our lives – our complicity in the violence's of the world, hand-washing at the sorrows of our friends, stifling of our truest questions, and the ease with which we are willing to go along with so much, as long as we are not inconvenienced or involved. Amen.**

**\*HYMN: #213 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", verse 2**

**Luke 23:18-25, p. 859**

Then they all shouted out together, 'Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!' (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, 'Crucify, crucify him!' A third time he said to them, 'Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.' But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

**Prayer of Barabbas: An assurance of grace (unison)**

**Holy God, we give you thanks for the way we, like Barabbas, stumble out of jail – aware of our guilt, but released, helpless to change our own lives, but forgiven into a new day. Amen.**

**\*HYMN: #213 “*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*”, verse 3**

**Luke 23:26-31, p. 859**

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

**Prayer of Simon of Cyrene: (unison) For the hope of the world**

**God, there are famous cross-carriers pulled out of the crowd – Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Anne Frank, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother Teresa – for them we give thanks. There are cross-carriers written on no history page whose children we know, whose elderly parents we've met -- and for them we give thanks. Move us to the curb of the Via Dolorosa for our times so we can bear the timber's weight, carry for Christ his caring for the world. Amen.**

## **Luke 23:32-43, pp. 859-860**

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

## **Reflection**

### **Prayer of the Bandits: Personal intercessions**

Pastor: O Gentle Savior, not because our sufferings and pains are worthy to be named with yours, but because you understand absolutely all the loss and pain and loneliness and desolation of human life and place yourself beside it, we bring you our prayers – for friend and family, neighbor and church member. For those who are ill this day we pray your blessing  
...

**All: (softly name names, feeling free to let the names overlap one another)**

Pastor: For those who suffer emotionally, in relationships, employment, lack of employment, immigration concerns, we pray your blessing ...

**All: (softly name names)**

Pastor: For those who feel forsaken, we pray your blessing ...

**All: (softly name names)**

Pastor: For those who are dying, we pray your blessing...

**All: (softly name names)**

Pastor: For ourselves, we pray your blessing and praise you for your unconditional love. Amen.

**Luke 23:44-49, p. 860**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

**Reflection**

**\*HYMN: #213 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", verse 4**

**Luke 23:50-56, p. 860**

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

**Prayer of the Women: (unison) An expression of thanksgiving**

**Christ Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, we thank you that you let us stay to the end, experiencing the reality of your death and the mystery of your hope. We thank you that you let us stay to the end of the lives of people who are near to us with your courage and peace. We thank you that, though we are each somewhere on our own journey to death, there is not an inch we need to walk alone. Hear us as we whisper with the weeping women, "We will return at dawn on the first day of the week."**

**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**

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



## PRAYER LIST (4/10/22)

- Friends & family of 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 Luca, Amy's nephew, whose treatments continue
- For Joe, Megan's friend, recovering from knee surgery
- For Joe's wife, Megan's friend, recovering from heart surgery
- For Leslie, Susan Haight's relative, who is out of the ICU but still in the hospital, and for Susan's nephew who is bearing a great deal of the burden
- For Polly, John Panto's sister, recovering from a stroke, who's moving into another facility
- For Clarence Farwell, recovering from a stroke
- For Nancy Reinbold, friend of the church, whose family is going through a rough time
- For Cassie, Amy's mom, who lost her sister Lois last year. For all the crazy Covid reasons, Cassie will be helping to sort through her things, a tough moment for everyone.
- For the friends and family of Sandy, Donna's cousin, may they know the love that surrounds them.
- For the people of Ukraine and Russia, drawn into a war they did not want
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

### **Palm Sunday Household Prayer: Morning<sup>1</sup>**

God, as I enter into this new day, I ask that you keep me mindful of the profound nature of this Holy Week. Help me to go beyond the joyful parade of the palms and to follow Jesus into the suffering of this world, mindful that he was obedient to you, even to the cross. Amen.

### **Palm Sunday Household Prayer: Evening**

Thank you, God, for the gift of this day. If I remembered today my betrayals of you, remind me now of your steadfast love for me, as I give this day into your hands and rest in peace. Amen.

### **Maundy Thursday Household Prayer: Morning**

God, this morning I pause to remember all the times in my life when you have answered my prayers and delivered me when I have stumbled. Help me to see the opportunities before me today to return your blessings to me by being of service to others; in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Maundy Thursday Household Prayer: Evening**

Thank you, God, for being with me today. For that I praise you! I am your servant, God, for you have unloosed my bonds. Forgive any times today when I forgot to walk in your ways. Now as I turn to sleep, my soul is at rest, for I trust in your mercy, secure in the promise that I am precious to you. Amen.

### **Good Friday Household Prayer: Morning**

Hold us fast, God our Savior, as the curtain of night is torn, and this dark day approaches. Hold us fast, God our Savior, as our faith and hope are tested and we await the rising sun. Amen.

### **Good Friday Household Prayer: Evening**

Holy God, enthroned on the praises of your people, we cry to you by day and call on you by night. Do not be far from us, for trouble is near and there is no one else to help. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

The events of Holy Week make up the central story of our faith. Can we see the suffering of others in our world in the passion of Jesus? What are some ways that the daughters and sons of humanity are crucified today? How are we called to respond?

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<sup>1</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.

## 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 +/-
February	\$17,742	\$26,067	(\$8,326)

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.

### Plan for Holy Week

**H**OLY WEEK leads up to Easter. During that week, there are several extra services to help us prepare for the new meaning and purpose that Easter brings each year.

**PALM SUNDAY, 4/10:** We celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, celebrated by the crowds. We begin to reflect on the dark betrayal of Jesus which leads to the Cross.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, 4/14:** We remember Jesus' Last Supper and the blessing he promised to his disciples. The 7:00pm service this year is at the Mason Congregational Church, 33 Valley Road, Mason, NH. You can also join the Zoom broadcast at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117814432?pwd=aU5zbjY3eldlRE96Y1Zacm1OeHlFZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 1781 4432; Passcode: 613185

**GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL, 4/15:** From 3:00 to 8:00pm, the church is open for quiet reflection on Jesus' death at human hands. Many find this time of deep quiet profoundly renewing.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**, 4/17, 5:45am: As the sunrise breaks on Musket Mountain and the Andres Institute, we welcome the light and the promise of Jesus' resurrection.

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**, 4/17, 10:00am: We celebrate the greatest of Good News – Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

### **Easter Flower Dedication Form**

We're inviting people to share their Easter dedications in the Easter Sunday bulletin. See the form below.

### **Looking for Lay Readers for the Maundy Thursday service in Mason**

We're looking for some volunteers to read at the Maundy Thursday service in Mason. If you're willing, please let Jill ([jgoods4@gmail.com](mailto:jgoods4@gmail.com)) or Rev. Cath ([minister@bccnh.org](mailto:minister@bccnh.org)) know.

### **Contributions to the UCC Ukrainian Relief Fund through Easter**

All of March's Take Home Meal revenue went to the UCC Ukrainian Relief Fund. We've raised more than \$1,500. So we're keeping it open through Easter. If you'd like to make a donation, please give the donation to anyone on the Outreach team and let them know it's for the Ukrainian donation.

### **Next Take Home Meal: April 8, Ham Tetrazzini**

You know it's going to be delicious. Order soon because they're going to fly out of here.

### **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 Haight) via email or 603-582-0964 if you could take a turn.

### **Save the Date: Discerning When God is Calling the Church, 5/1, after worship**

We're continuing our 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?

### **Looking for feedback on changes in our Covid protocols**

Over the next few weeks we'll be experimenting with changes in our Covid-19 protocols, trying to relax some of our guidelines. Our intention is to help folks feel more connected with one another. But the same changes might feel great

for some and off-putting for others. Please speak with Rev. Cath, Ann or any of the deacons to let us know how the changes make you feel.

### **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](#). And if you've ordered 4 in the past, you can get four more the same way!

### **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:

Gas card donations

Market Basket/Walmart Gift Cards

Small women's depends

Flushable wipes (not baby)

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



This year, the Deacons will be donating a small number of Easter flowers to help decorate the sanctuary. We look forward to being able to invite the congregation to help us purchase flowers again next year.

For this year however, please fill out the form below and give it to a Deacon (Russell H, Barbara HH, John P, Candy T, Jill A), or email your dedication to Candy at [secretary@bccnh.org](mailto:secretary@bccnh.org). We will include your dedication in the Easter bulletin, as we have done in past years.

Dedication deadline: Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

and/or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!