



*Brookline Community Church*

*May 1, 2022*

*Rev. Catherine A. Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude: *You Are My All in All***

**Call To Worship, Psalm 30, p. 439, A Psalm. A Song at the dedication of the temple. Of David.**

Leader: I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,  
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.  
O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.  
O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,  
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

**All: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his holy name.  
For his anger is but for a moment;  
his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.**

Leader: As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
'I shall never be moved.'  
By your favor, O LORD,  
you had established me as a strong mountain;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.

**All:** To you, O LORD, I cried,  
and to the LORD I made supplication:  
‘What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the Pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!  
O LORD, be my helper!’

**Leader:** You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,

**All:** so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

**Hymn: #2 Holy, Holy, Holy**

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):**

Can we hear the song of creation?

**Lifting up Our Joys and Concerns:**

The response to “O Lord our God,” is “**we cry to you for help.**”

**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.

[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.]

**Hymn: #353 For the Beauty of the Earth**

## **Celebration of Holy Communion<sup>1</sup>**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Leader: Come to the deep place in your life that Christ shows you.

**All: We come to fish for what nurtures our lives.**

Leader: Come to the daybreak of hope.

**All: We come to recognize love on the shore,  
even when it seems like we are drowning.**

Leader: Come to the charcoal fire of community.

**All: We come to a place of warmth and caring.**

Leader: Come and have breakfast.

**All: We join profound sacrament to a simple meal.**

### **Words of Remembrance and Consecration**

On this May Day morning  
we remember that Jesus of Nazareth  
ate breakfast at his mother Mary's table,  
and never forgot that receiving  
a meal that is given  
is a holy way to begin every day.

We remember that Jesus taught  
at a table while Mary of Bethany listened,  
and that Mary of Magdala provided  
from the depths  
of gratefulness and generosity  
for the meals of all the followers.

We remember a rhythm in tambourine  
Miriam gave to every Passover,  
and that Jesus, on the night he was betrayed,  
broke the unleavened bread  
of that old commemoration of freedom,  
and offered a cup of new covenant,  
poured out for everyone in the upper room,

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<sup>1</sup> The communion liturgy was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Holy Communion Liturgy for May 1, 2022," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted April 21, 2022, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2022/04/21/holy-communion-for-may-1-2022/> (accessed April 28, 2022).

and for everyone wading through sorrows  
or dancing for freedom  
who is willing to eat and drink now  
in his name for the life-giving of the world.

**Holy God, you give us what we need, a simple breakfast or a feast, the strength just to go on or the outlet for our great joy. Send your Spirit upon this bread to be sacred, in memory and in truth, and on this cup that we may drink your living presence. Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Elements**

Leader: You hold the Bread of Heaven,  
consecrated by your touch and taste.

All: **We eat peace for the past and hope for tomorrow.**  
(Eat the bread).

Leader: You hold the Cup of Blessing,  
consecrated by deep remembrance and resurrection faith.

All: **We drink in Alleluia.**  
(Drink the wine).

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God, we give you thanks for filling our nets, serving us life and love, and meeting us not only at this table but at all our tables. We accept your call to feed the spirits, minds, and bodies of all your people, young as lambs or older as sheep, safe in the flock or wandering on distant hills, through Christ our Savior. Amen**

### **Hymn: #532 *Be Thou My Vision***

### **Scripture Reading: Revelation 5:11-14, pp. 997-998**

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!’

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
for ever and ever!’

And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and worshipped.

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

#### **Hymn: *Imagine* by John Lennon**

Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us, only sky

Imagine all the people  
Livin' for today  
Ah

Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion, too

Imagine all the people  
Livin' life in peace  
You

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions  
I wonder if you can  
No need for greed or hunger  
A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people  
Sharing all the world  
You

You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will live as one

#### **MINISTRY OF SHARING**

**\*DOXOLOGY: #809 “Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.”**

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

**Worthy are you, O God,  
to receive power and wealth  
and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing.  
Receive these gifts  
of thanksgiving and praise  
and use them for your glory  
and the good of your people;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lamb. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 30)**

Leader: Thank you, O LORD, for all the resurrections you have offered me, all the times you have pulled me back from the brink.

**All: So I'll join in the song of creation. Your anger is brief, but your favor lasts for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

Leader: When times are good, I think I can do it on my own. But I have forgotten that it was your grace that brought those good times to me, so please never stop watching over me.

**All: I'll keep praising you. And I'll keep asking for help. Because you asked all of creation to stay in conversation with you.**

Leader: Even when things are feeling pretty awful, you are with me, protecting me, resurrecting me to life and joy.

**All: I will praise you forever, because you are singing to me and with me forever, and the song will never end.**

Leader: Amen.

**All: 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: You Are My All in All**

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

## Notes:

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### Psalm 30

The psalm begins in praise (verses 1-3) for a quite specific reason. The speaker has just been given a new lease on life. We often need to recite over and over the details of the death of a loved one. Likewise, this psalmist needs to recite in detail the rescue that has just been accomplished.

The statement lacks concreteness about the problem. This is a genuine experience of resurrection, whatever the specifics might have been. Life has indeed been inverted. The psalm is useful to us because we may bring our own specificity to the text.

Verses 4-5 are a general invitation to the community to join in the praise, because the thanks are more than one individual person can adequately render.

The middle portion, verses 6-10, describes the movement from disorientation to new orientation. The absence of God destabilizes the initial scene of prosperity. The psalmist does not deny that there has been trouble, but it has been powerfully overcome. We are given no concreteness about the trouble, and we are given no clue about how it has been overcome. The move from weeping to joy is as reliable as the move from night to daybreak. The power of daybreak is a new enactment of God's sovereignty.

Verses 11-12 are parallel to verses 1-3 acknowledging and celebrating God's decisive transforming actions.

Because of new life given only by God, silence is impossible. The mark of new life, inexplicable and unexpected, is confession expressed as thanks. Such thanks, which articulates a new life commitment, is possible only among those who vividly remember their pre-rescue situation. The purpose of the psalm appears to be to keep that memory alive, so that the occasion of transformation is kept alive. Praise springs from that memory.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 126-128.



## PRAYER LIST (5/1/22)

- 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 friends and family of Dave Kinney, whose life ended too soon
- For the friends and family of Lois Adams, who left us too soon
- For the congregation of the Brookline Community Church
- For Steven Spader
- For peace, for the end of violence of all kinds
- For the Michael Esposito who has a long road to recovery after an accident
- For Cathy, a friend of the Drake's, who is suffering from illness
- For people to listen to one another and sometimes agree to disagree while being respectful
- 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

## **Household Prayer: Morning<sup>2</sup>**

Lord Jesus Christ, as you met your disciples just after daybreak on the beach, meet us at the dawning of this new day. As you filled their nets with fish, fill our lives with love and grace, more than we can ask or imagine. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

## **Household Prayer: Evening**

Gracious God, we praise you for the blessing of this day and the promise of tomorrow. Be our helper as the night falls and our joy when the morning comes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Questions for Reflection**

Jesus chose Peter, who had denied him in his hour of need, to tend his sheep and build his church. He chose Paul, who had persecuted Jesus' followers, to proclaim the good news of the gospel. Can anything separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ? What has Jesus chosen and called you to do?

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

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.

### **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  
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 Angie 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