



Prelude

Call To Worship, Psalm 148, p. 508

Leader: Praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

**All: Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them for ever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**All: Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Leader: Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

**All: Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

Leader: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**All: He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!**

Hymn #353 For the Beauty of the Earth

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: How do differences make a better fit?

Hymn #437 Help Us Accept Each Other

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

The response to "O God of love," is "**raise us to new life in Christ.**"

Let us recite 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 or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

Hymn #576 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Scripture Reading: Acts 11:1-18, p. 895

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn #540 *Take Time to Be Holy*

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:**

**Loving God, we give you thanks
for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us
in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection.
Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation.
May they be a testament to your love for us
as we share them in love for you;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise the LORD! We've been given the gift of noticing all that's in God's creation, the heavens and all the angels and heavenly host that watch over us.

All: Praise the LORD! From the farthest reaches of the universe to the raindrops rolling off the leaves and into the aquifer to keep life going here at home.

Leader: Praise the LORD! And let me be grateful that I depend on God's creation made to bring order from chaos.

All: Praise the LORD! Even when the chaos seems to roll up to my door in snowbanks and black flies. Even when I make choices that put more chaos and destruction in my own life, because God is still with me.

Leader: Praise the LORD! God has created such diversity that we are always surrounded by God's grace, from hilltop to strawberry bud.

All: Praise the LORD! Everyone has an opportunity to stop focusing on themselves and focus on how God has knit us together as a community that spans the planet.

Leader: Praise the LORD! There is no power like God in our lives. Let us speak our praise in words and deeds.

All: Praise the LORD! God has strengthened us, praises us, cares for us because we are a vital part of God's creation.

Leader: Praise the LORD! Amen.

All: Praise 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

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 148

Psalm 148 is the third song in the fivefold doxology that concludes the Psalter (Psalms 146-150).

The First Movement of Praise (vv. 1-6): In this first poetic unit, the praise is in the heavens, the heights. First come God’s angels and host. Angels are messengers; the “host” likely refers to the host of heavenly messengers, or to the sun, moon, and stars or even to a military host. Next summoned to praise are objects of nature: sun, moon, stars, and sky. The cosmology includes the notion that rainwater comes from above and therefore must be above the sky that expands above. So the highest realms of creation are called to the praise of God the creator.

The call from heaven is to praise God’s “name” (v. 5), for the name is representative of God. The reason is that God has created all those called to praise – the angels, heavenly host, sun, moon, stars, sky and rain. God also set the order of creation and the place in it for all those called to praise. The creator brought order out of chaos, a word of good news for the community that shaped the final parts of the Psalter and that continued to deal with the aftermath of exile.

Second Movement of Praise (vv. 7-14). Verse 7 begins anew with the same imperative call to praise – “Praise the Lord” – but this time from the earth. There is no one like God.

The final verse narrows the focus to the community in a covenant relationship with the creator. “Horn” is usually a symbol of strength. God brings that strength to them. The creator and divine king makes life possible for this community. The psalm ends as it began, with the imperative call to praise: “Praise the Lord!”



PRAYER LIST (5/15/22)

- Friends & family of Braedon O'Connor, Elly Austin, Patty Birner, Jesse Delrossi.
- 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 Joelle, Megan's friend & Joe's wife, 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 Louise, Rev. Cath's family friend, who has an inoperable brain tumor
- For Michael Esposito, friend of Susan and Russell's family, who is out of a coma but facing innumerable surgeries and other medical challenges
- For Cathy, a friend of Marjorie & David, whose family is going through a really rough patch.
- For Joanne, Bob's cousin, who's in the hospital
- For Nadia Weidman's family in Ukraine, who have left their home to seek safety.
- For the people of Ukraine, who are finding new life in the death that surrounds them this Eastertide
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning¹

Delivering God, each day we awaken to your goodness and our hearts cry out in praise as you set us to tasks for the life of the world. Do not let us hinder your love, but strengthen our will, as we offer thanks in every simple gesture of this day. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Faithful God, the nightly dance of earth, moon, and stars speaks of your gift: love given, love received. We give thanks this night for the love you have shown to us this day. Let us rest in your peace and awaken in joy. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

In Acts 11:1–18, Peter, led by the Spirit, discloses God’s new directions to heal creation, and the church reconfigures its social boundaries. The Gentiles, who were excluded from the church in Jerusalem because their eating habits were judged to be vile and unclean, are now included by the reconciling work of the Spirit. Where is God’s Spirit opening us to new directions in mission this day?

Daily Awareness Reflection²

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 ...

¹ 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.

² 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 +/-
April	\$23,994	\$33,647	(\$9,654)

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.

Homeless keys looking for an owner on the back table:

In tidying up the 3rd floor classrooms, we found a number of keys that are looking for a home. They may have been there a while, so see if they were the set you were never able to find! See Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com) for more details.

Take Home Meal on May 13: Turkey Meatballs with Gravy on Mashed Potato

What could be better than a delicious meal you don't need to cook yourself!?!

Senior Luncheon, May 21st:

Dripped beef sandwiches & Monte Cristo Sliders – you know it's going to be yummy!

Save the Date: Discerning When God is Calling the Church, 5/22, 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?

We've gotten feedback asking us to be tighter on time, so we're aiming to make the session more compact.

Order Your June Take Home Meal Now: Smoked Barbeque

On SATURDAY, June 18th at 4:00pm, there will be a special Take Home Meal pick up of barbeque, cornbread and other sides. There's a limited number of dinners (we really mean it!), so get your order in now.

May is Military Appreciation Month, bring in any extra cards we can send

Outreach is putting together a note writing campaign to send notes to our military personnel. If you have spare note cards, please bring them in. Contact Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com) for more details.

Thank You for Supporting the UCC Ukrainian Relief Fund!

We raised \$1,617 for the fund which is very much needed. We will continue to support relief efforts in Ukraine, so watch this space!

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](#).

There's a family who has just become guardians of a little girl. They're looking for:

T-shirts/Onesies (long & short sleeve)
Leggings
Summer PJ's (long and short sleeve)
Spring Coat
Light Sweatshirts/sweaters

Size 5T shoes (summer closed-toe sandals and sneakers)
Mother & Child gift card
Target Gift Card
Toddler Bed-size bedding

For the food pantry, in addition to Market Basket gift cards, this week, they're looking for:

laundry detergent
dish soap

toilet paper
kitchen sponges

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