



Brookline Community Church

May 22, 2022

Rev. Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Prelude: *Here I Am to Worship*

Call To Worship, Psalm 67, p. 460;

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song.

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
Selah

that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Selah

**All: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.

**All: May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

Hymn: #21 *How Great Thou Art*

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 we live Jesus' words?

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

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: #57 *All Things Bright and Beautiful (with a different melody)*

Scripture Reading: John 14:22-29, pp. 877-878

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: #563 *Lord I Want to Be a Christian*

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:**

**Giving God,
as spring bursts forth its blossoms
in witness to your love,
you bless us from generation to generation
with the new life of Easter faith.
All that we have and all that we are come from you, O God,
so we gladly share this offering,
that others too may be blessed,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 67)

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

All: That the way of God will be known on earth, that everyone will see what God intends for the world

Leader: God's intentions will lead to praise, because we need more love and more order in this chaotic world.

All: God will bring justice and equity to the world, using that to guide the path of history, so might will not be the only way to right.

Leader: God's actions will lead to praise, because we need more love and more order in this chaotic world.

All: The land we inhabit has blessed us with abundance. It's too easy to forget that our efforts are not the source of abundance. God offers us untold blessings every day.

Leader: May God continue to bless us

All: Until praise echoes from the ends of the earth.

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: Your Love, O Lord

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 67

The sum of the entire poem is gladness for the life-giving, world-ordering power of God that makes a viable, shared life in the world possible.

The psalm begins with a familiar formula of blessing that is parallel to the priestly blessing of Num 6:24-26. In this case, however, the consequence of a blessing to Israel is that the life-giving power of God will be known in all the world.

The reason given for that broad sweep of praise is that God is a judge who will bring all nations to justice, well-being, and peace.

The both/and of God toward Israel and toward the nations is crucial in this psalm. This psalm is an articulation of God's work in creation and in history. That surely is the focus of the blessing tone of the whole poem.

The most interesting rhetorical nuance, however, is the duality of Israel and the nations or Israel and creation. It is characteristic of the Old Testament that alongside the sustained commitment that God has to Israel, the work of God cannot be contained in and for Israel but always spills over into the larger horizon of other peoples. These other peoples are the subject of God's goodness, which is rooted as deeply as God's call to Abraham (Gen 12:3). To be sure, the important distinction between Israel and the nations is never blurred, but there is always more to Israel's affirmation of God's power than just its own well-being.

This psalm does not acknowledge any tension between the election of Israel and creation faith. Rather it entertains a large vision of God so that the blessing given to Israel is readily extended to all of God's beloved peoples.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms*, in *New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 289-292.



PRAYER LIST (5/22/22)

- 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 William, Amy's nephew, with HFM disease that needs a lot of work to keep from spreading (and Amy's sister who's doing a lot of the work!)
- For the friends and family of Gary, Amy's uncle, that they might know the love that surrounds them.
- For those involved in the mass shooting in Buffalo, that they might be supported
- For the friends and family of the million Americans lost to Covid
- 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

Holy Spirit, enliven in us a faith and witness like Lydia's, that through deepened prayer we might rise to action in service of the gospel. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, it is night and the time for rest has come. We have served you in love this day and for this we give you thanks. Do not leave us comfortless, but send your Spirit to abide with us as we trust in you this night. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

When Lydia hears the gospel, she becomes the first Christian in Europe. Led by the Spirit, Lydia's faith is decisive and her witness is immediate. The word opens her heart in love, and she opens her house in hospitality in service of the gospel. How might Lydia's witness excite your sense of ministry and mission this day? Where might you find someone searching for God's word?

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.

Get Your Parking Placards for the Grove for Worship this Summer!

In order to avoid a ticket, you MUST update your placard with a 2022 sticker. Stickers will be available at the Grove on:

- May 16th thru May 20th – 4:00-7:00 PM
- Saturday, May 21st—11 AM-4:00 PM
- Sunday, May 22nd—11 AM-4:00 PM

If you need to replace your placard, there is a \$2.00 charge per placard

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.

Special Weekday Worship Service, THURSDAY, May 26th, 7:00pm

We'll be trying a variety of different things in worship this summer. One suggestion that is coming up next week is replacing the Sunday worship with a weekday evening worship, inviting people to spend the Memorial Day weekend with friends & family or on service projects. So we'll have a special Evensong worship next Thursday and then see each other on Sunday, June 5th.

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