



Brookline Community Church

June 5, 2022 – Pentecost

Rev. Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Prelude: [Speak](#) by Lou Fellingham

Call To Worship, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, pp. 483-484

Leader: O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

All: Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

**There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

Leader: These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

All: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

**When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

Leader: May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;
 may the LORD rejoice in his works—
 who looks on the earth and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains and they smoke.

All: **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;**
 I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
 for I rejoice in the LORD.

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All: **Praise the LORD!**

Hymn: This is My Father's World by Amy Grant

This is my father's world
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres

This is my father's world
The birds their carols raise
The morning light, the lily white
Declare their maker's praise

This is my father's world
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas
His hand the wonders wrought

This is my father's world
Oh, let me never forget
That though the wrong seems oft so
strong
God is the ruler yet

This is my father's world
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heavens ring
God reigns, let the earth be glad

This is my father's world
He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass, I hear him pass
He speaks to me everywhere

In the rustling grass, I hear him pass
He speaks to me everywhere

Children's Message: Where do we see the Holy Spirit?

Hymn: Blowing Wind And Tongues Of Flame by Bob Hartman and Sam Hargreaves

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.]

Celebration of Holy Communion¹

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table, knowing
that Pentecost will always mean
heading out from the safe upper
room
to a crowd of strangers,
from a church birthday cake faith
with slices reserved for only us,
to a red balloon gospel
rising from the Christ's Cup
to escape our tight fists,
and float into all the world,

and from the received wisdom
of those in the responsible years
between thirty-two and sixty
to the excited ideas
of teenagers,
who may be wrong,
and the fractured wisdom
of elders with memories
leaking everything but love.

Come to this table,
with familiar holy bread and
unfamiliar words.

Words of Remembrance

We remember the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth,
who invited children to come to him,
suggested children as model for faithful living,
and called out against those who put
stumbling blocks in the path of one child's life.

We remember that Jesus called
those who gathered in the Upper Room, "children,"
and fed them bread of hope and cup of blessing,
so they would remember the loss
of God's Child and all God's children,
and the promise to live again.

¹ The communion liturgy was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Holy Communion Liturgy for June 5, 2022," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted May 26, 2022, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2022/05/26/holy-communion-for-pentecost-june-5-2022/> (accessed May 30, 2022).

Prayer of Consecration

We Are the Body of Christ dispersed and gathered, with different words but one heart, which is always true though we do not always recognize it.

(*Sung or Spoken*) Como granos que han hecho el mismo pan
como notas que tejen un cantar
como gotas de agua que se funden en el mar
los cristianos un cuerpo formaran.

Like the grains that become one whole loaf,
like the notes that are woven into song,
like droplets of water that are blended in the sea,
we, as Christians, one body shall become.

Rest your hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them and upon us and upon all those who are in our prayers this morning.

(Silent prayer)

Sharing of the Elements

Leader: Eat these grains of the promise of life.

All: **May they fill us with love.**
(Eat the bread).

Leader: Drink from the fruit of God's vine

All: **May we taste new words of peace.**
(Drink from the cup).

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Peace, you leave with us, O Holy One, even when we are afraid of your leaving. Your peace you give to us, no matter how impossible it seems. You do not give to us as the world gives, but you give your Spirit to us just so that we may learn to give it away. Do not let our hearts be troubled so much that we stop loving, and do not let us be afraid of sharing in the new tongues we receive from all communion with you, so that we may tell the good news to those who need it even when we do not fully understand it ourselves. Amen.

Hymn: Come Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire by Jordan Ware

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.

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21, p. 885

[If you look at this passage in your pew Bible, you'll see a long list of ancient places around the Mediterranean. By giving such a long list, Luke (the author of Acts) is trying to convey that all the world was there at the founding of the church.

But our modern ears don't recognize where the Medes live, or where Pamphylia is. So I have gone back through the last years' prayers of Joys & Concerns and replaced the place names with ones we have prayed for so we can recapture the intention of the original passage. That's the only change I've made.

The list of places I've included are:

- Afghans: U.S. withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan
- Haitians: Recovery from another earthquake and home of one of the Compassion International children the church has adopted, Wiznadine
- Norwegians: who took care of Peter in his illness
- Miami Beach: collapse of the Champlain Towers condominiums
- Boothbay Harbor: recovery of the body of someone lost near Rev. Cath's home in Maine.
- Lawrence, MA: recovery of a body of someone lost for over seven years
- Ukraine and Russia: war
- Nashua: the counterprotest against white supremacists
- Brookline: our home
- Lithuania: video singing in support of the Ukrainian war effort
- Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky: all hit by a bad series of tornadoes
- Belarus: forced an airliner to land in order to forcibly remove a dissident
- Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas: mass shootings

The passage now reads:

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Afghans, Haitians, Norwegians, and residents of Miami Beach, Boothbay Harbor and Lawrence, Massachusetts, Ukraine and Russia, Nashua and Brookline, Lithuania and the parts of Tornado Alley belonging to Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky, and visitors from Belarus, both Jews and proselytes, Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas —in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: #304 Come Down, O Love Divine by the choir of St Michael and All Angels, Bassett

(There's a slight difference in the lyrics at the end of verse 2)

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:**

**Because God first loved us,
we are made to love one another.**

**For the sake of the life of the world, we offer ourselves,
our time, and our possessions as signs of love.**

**Make us thankful every day, O God,
for the gifts that alight upon us from your bounty.
Guide us to use these offerings to your glory
for the health of your people and this creation. Amen.**

Announcements

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

- Leader: All of creation reveals God's wisdom
- All:** **Even the wind whipped wildness of the sea shows the order and care God has put in the world**
- Leader: God offers every single creature their daily bread, the fresh water, the sweet oil
- All:** **When God's face is turned away, when God's breath no longer blows through the land, there is nothing but loss and hunger**
- Leader: God lays God's hand on the world, blessing the mountains and volcanos, the fertile plains and the quivering earthquakes
- All:** **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live, knowing that all of creation, including me, relies on God for breath and food.**
- Leader: Turn fully to God, O my soul.
- All:** **Protect the world that God has designed. Offer protection as praise.**
- 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: I'm Listening by Christ McClarney

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 104

Psalm 104 is an extended celebration of the goodness and awesome character of creation. It is a hymn about creation rather than the Creator. It is a poem celebrating the order, symmetry, and majesty of creation.

That grand and almost overwhelming recital ends in verse 23. The end point in the recital is appropriately that people function as workers in God's creation. That is our lot in life. It is not a curse or a special burden.

The remainder of the psalm includes three telling conclusions drawn from reflection on God's ordered world:

- a) God is known to be confident, serene, and at ease. Conventionally the sea is an expression of dread and intense threat. Here the sea is God's plaything; what some think is evil is seen as responsive to God and, in God's way, more tame than we suspected.
- b) In verses 27-30, the whole world is daily dependent on God's sustenance, God's face, God's presence, God's breath. The world is impressive and to be celebrated. But it has no independent existence. On its own, it has no possibility of survival or well-being. That is a daily gift.
- c) That awareness leads the speaker in verses 31-34 to be moved to spontaneous wonder, gratitude, and praise. The psalm translates these very large claims to a personal delight in God's goodness.

Even this psalm cannot resist the conclusion of verse 35. The world is a free gift from God, but with it comes an expectation and a cost. Every generation learns what the first humans in the garden learned (Genesis 2-3). The nourishing Lord has not abdicated sovereignty. In this kingdom of delight, divine will must indeed be honored. This verse suggests the psalm does not express disinterested faith, but guards a faithful social life.

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms: A Theological Commentary*. (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984), 31-33.



PRAYER LIST (6/5/22)

- 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 the friends and family of Louise Ponti, Rev. Cath's family friend
- For Michael Esposito, friend of Susan and Russell's family, who is moving out of the hospital but into a rehab facility and facing a long recovery
- For Cathy, a friend of Marjorie & David, whose family is going through a really rough patch.
- 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 those involved in the shooting in Uvalde, Texas may they find comfort
- For the families trying to find a way around the shortage of baby formula
- For the families navigating the emotional landscape of graduation
- For the expressions of white supremacy that are holding us back from forming a more perfect union
- 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: Morning²

Gracious God, we thank you for the peace of good sleep and for keeping us safe throughout the night. Let this new day be a time of praise and joy as we go out to meet you in our sisters and brothers. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Merciful Lord, as night comes to this house, we thank you for the challenges and accomplishments of this day. Give our hearts and minds the comfort now to rest in your care, trusting that whatever tomorrow brings, your hand will be ready to catch us if we fall. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

What gift of yours, of your family, and of your community has the Holy Spirit especially nurtured in recent times? How might that gift be expressed and used in a new way in the coming year?

Daily Awareness Reflection³

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 ...

² 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.

³ 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 +/-
May	\$28,340	\$40,271	(\$11,932)

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.

Escape the Indoors: Cub Scout Family Fun Day, June 5th 2-4pm

See [the flyer for details](#), but it looks like a fun collection of events sponsored by the Cub Scouts and the American Legion.

SATURDAY, June 11th, Blue Jeans & Work Gloves Worship on the Lawn

Our call for volunteers to help tidy up the gardens and lawn of the church a few weeks ago didn't yield enough labor, so we'll shift worship next week to Saturday to help with the tidy up and then worship afterwards. Please come starting at 2:00pm and we'll help get the gardens and borders in better shape. Once everyone's back from the transfer station, we'll have worship on the side lawn. Bring your lawn chairs and your work gloves for a special Saturday service.

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.

Town Email List has Last Minute Updates on the Route 130 Paving Project

If you're not already [signed up](#), the Town email list sends out useful updates on all sorts of events and projects happening around town.

Make Sure to Get Your Parking Placards for the Lake!

We hope to worship more often at the Lake than in previous years. So make sure you have an up to date parking placard.

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.

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:

Cleaning products	Paper towels
Sponges	Toilet paper

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