



Brookline Community Church

June 19, 2022

Rev. Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Prelude: [Goodness of God by Bethel Music](#)

Call To Worship, Psalm 22:19-28, p. 435

To the leader: according to The Deer of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

Leader: But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!

**All: From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the LORD, praise him!**

Leader: All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;

**All: he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**

Leader: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live for ever!

**All: All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

Hymn: [God of Grace and God of Glory by LaGrange College](#)

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

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.

Meeting Quebin, our adopted son from Compassion International:

How has he grown over the years?

Prayer for Father's Day¹

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.]

¹ Today's pastoral prayer was inspired by Maren Tirabassi's "Father's Day Prayer," Gifts in Open Hands Blog, posted June 12, 2018, <https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2022/03/25/prayer-for-places-of-hospitality/> (accessed May 3, 2022).

Hymn: Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) by Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever
mine
You are forever mine

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:26-39, p. 841

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [Battle Hymn of the Republic by Nashville Public Television and the Oak Ridge Boys](#)

Glory, glory Hallelujah. Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on
Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
He has loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah. Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on
He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat
Oh, be swift, my soul to answer, oh, be jubilant, my feet
Our God is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah. Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on
In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free
His truth is marching on

Glory, glory Hallelujah. Glory, glory Hallelujah
Glory, glory Hallelujah. His truth is marching on
Our God is marching on

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:**

God gives us more than enough
for our journey of faith.
We present our tithes and offerings
so that others may know their blessings
and give thanks to God.

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 22)

Leader: O Lord, there is so much in this world that wants to eat me alive, and there are times when it feels that you have abandoned me to all the hungry dogs and lions.

All: Yes, it feels that way. And suddenly I realize you have rescued me and have been rescuing me all along. And I need to tell everyone about the God who never forgets.

Leader: God doesn’t walk away from us, no matter our affliction or how badly we are afflicted. God never writes us off.

All: God never turns away. God always hears our cries.

Leader: In wider and wider circles, from family to church to everyone at the ends of the earth, we need to tell everyone that the poor shall eat and be satisfied, that the forsaken are never alone.

All: All the families of the nations will sing God’s song, all nations will follow the rule of God, seeking justice and mercy.

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: [Father by Jeremy Camp](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 22

This psalm is of special interest for Christians because Jesus quotes verse 1 from the cross (Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34). A classic example of a psalm of lament, it is readily divided into two parts: the complaint of the speaker in trouble (vv. 1-21a) and praise and thanksgiving after the resolution of the trouble (vv. 21b-31).

Two questions arise from the drama of this psalm. First, is it true that God can be present and then absent? Conventional theology says no. It is clear nonetheless that the Psalter gives an account of lived reality that takes place through give and take in which God is a part of the entire tension of fidelity and infidelity. We are thereby free to attest to our experience of divine abandonment and to take it at face value as a theological truth.

Second, are we free and unrestrained to voice our conviction of divine abandonment? This psalm, among others, makes clear that we may use no-holds-barred rhetoric to share our conviction about God. Orthodoxy places no curbs on us. Such utterances, moreover, not only characterize such a reality of divine absence but do so in an accusatory tone, assuming that we are entitled to richer fidelity from God than we readily experience.

Alongside such questions, two affirmations are central to this faith. First, we trust that serious, engaged petition will indeed mobilize God to action that God would not otherwise undertake. Such prayer is not pretend but is life-or-death engagement with God, who is thereby summoned from infidelity to fidelity, from absence to presence.

Secondly, the God who has been absent, can be again present in decisive, transformative, life-giving ways. Thus, the dramatic movement of the psalm is not only rhetorical but a lived truth concerning the God who comes into circumstances of death and gives new life.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 111-122.



PRAYER LIST (6/19/22)

- 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 Polly, John Panto's sister, recovering from a stroke, who's moving into another facility
- 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 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 Morris, John Nicholson's dad, who's facing significant health challenges
- For those struggling with thoughts of suicide
- For those facing major surgery
- For Candy's parents, both suffering from 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: Morning²

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for protection through the night and for your presence throughout the day. Clothe us with mercy toward those we meet. Render us the courage and calm we need to face the tasks of the present and to prepare for the challenges to come. Guard us this day so that we learn to give thanks at all times. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for this day of work and play, for study and chores, for time with our family and friends, and for time to be alone. Bring us now to the peace of mind that lets us rest in you. Refresh us with your care so that we may rise in the morning with joy. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

Think of the many ways in which people are “chained” and how the word of God speaks differently to those prisons. What specific constraint is in your own life for which you might pray that the Holy Spirit show you a path toward freedom?

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

**HORTON CENTER
NEEDS YOU!**



Be a Counselor!
Scan here or go to
www.hortoncenter.org/volunteer




Connect with God's
amazing creation and be
a part of a welcoming
Christian community!



Be a role model for
campers! Create a safe
space for them to be their
true selves!



Create art, explore caves,
relax in rocking chairs,
bond with kids, hike
mountains, toast s'mores
and MORE!

Email thughes@nhcucc.org or call 603-545-9660

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.



Thanks to Everyone Who Helped with the Garden Clean Up!

Many hands made light work. Thanks so much for everyone who helped the grounds look so much better.

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.

Andres Institute Walk for Peace/Ukrainian Fundraiser - Sat., June 18th from 9-12

Walkers may choose their trail through the mountainside sculpture park and visit four sculptures by Ukrainian artists near the summit, where the renown cellist Eugene Friesen, formerly of the Paul Winter Consort will perform. [Here are the details.](#)

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.

The Family Caring for their Granddaughter is Looking for a New Apartment

A few weeks ago, we learned from Angie about a family that was awarded custody of their granddaughter. We helped them get the clothes and other resources they needed to settle her in.

Now they are looking for a new apartment, preferably in Brookline, and are facing a tight housing market. If you know of anyone who might be looking for a great tenant, please contact Amy Razzaboni (arazz3914@gmail.com).

The Church is Looking for a New Cleaning Person

After many years of faithful service, Susan Laub is stepping down at the end of June. So we are looking for someone interested in helping to keep the church clean and welcoming. We estimate it takes about 3.75 hours/week and we pay a tad over \$15/hour. If you're interested or know anyone who might be, please let Ann Desrochers (moderator@bccnh.org) know.

Public Works Facility Open House & Farewell to Tad Putney and Valerie Rearick, Sat. June 25, noon – 2:00pm

The Selectboard invites residents to visit the new Public Works Facility at 42 North Mason Road on Saturday, June 25th from Noon to 2pm to walk through the new building and to also wish Val and Tad well as they retire at the end of June. [Here are the details.](#)

Selectboard Looking for Input on Private Wells by June 24th

The Selectboard is seeking information on well water in Brookline in order to evaluate if further protections/ordinances are needed. Whether you have had issues of water quantity, water quality or experienced no issues, your input would assist the Board in its evaluation. [Here is the survey link.](#)

Would You Like to Pick the Music for Worship?

Music is not one of Rev. Cath's gifts, so she gets help from a variety of people. If you'd like to try picking the music once or many time, please let her know (minister@bccnh.org). Yifan's happy to do it. He knows how much he enjoys it and want other folks to have an opportunity if they'd like to give it a try.

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](#).

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

toilet tissue, paper towels, tissues

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