



*Brookline Community Church*

*June 26, 2022*

*Rev. Catherine A. Merrill, Minister*

**Prelude:** [\*You Are My All in All\* by Raluca Bojor](#)

**Call To Worship, Psalm 16, pp. 430-431**

A Miktam of David.

**Leader:** Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you.'

**All:** **As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all my delight.**

**Leader:** Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names upon my lips.

**All:** **The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.  
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.**

**Leader:** I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

**All:** **Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.**

Leader: For you do not give me up to Sheol,  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

**All: You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**Hymn: [I Have Decided to Follow Jesus by Lydia Walker](#)**

I have decided to follow Jesus (x3)  
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me (x3)  
No turning back, no turning back.

Tho' none go with me, I still will follow (x3)  
No turning back, no turning back.

Will you decide now, to follow Jesus? (x3)  
No turning back, no turning back.

I have decided to follow Jesus (x3)  
No turning back, no turning back.  
No turning back, no turning back.  
There's no turning back, no turning back.

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?

**A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:**

The response to "Hear us, O God;" is "**your mercy is great.**"

**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](mailto:minister@bccnh.org) or call/text (857) 259-7269.]

**Hymn: [Follow Me by Liza D'Souza](#)**

Refrain: Follow me, follow me, leave your home and family,  
Leave your fishing nets and boats upon the shore.  
Leave the seed that you have sown,  
leave the crops that you've grown,  
leave the people you have known and follow me.

1. The foxes have their holes,  
and the swallows have their nests,  
but the son of man  
has no place to lie down.  
I do not offer comfort,  
I do not offer wealth,  
but in me will all happiness be found.

2. If you would follow me,  
you must leave old ways behind.  
You must take your cross  
and follow on my path.  
You may be far from loved ones,  
you may be far from home,  
but my father will welcome you at last.

3. Although I go away  
you will never be alone.  
for the spirit will be  
there to comfort you.  
Though all of you may scatter,  
each follow his own path,  
still the spirit of love will lead you home.

**Scripture Reading: Luke 9:51-62, p. 843**

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

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

**Hymn: [Will You Come and Follow Me? by Joy and Ruth Everingham](#)**

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### **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:**

**Take these gifts, O God, for the work of this church.**

**Let them stand as signs of your love and faithfulness.**

**In the name of the one who gave himself for us, we pray. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World** (a riff on Psalm 16)

Leader: I need protection, O God, because this world is tough on tender souls.

**All: It's delightful to be with other faithful people, even if they are sometimes hard to find.**

Leader: Because some keep God's name on their lips, even if they worship other idols with their time and resources.

**All: Of all the ways to divide up my time and resources, I choose God as my share. I welcome God's cup of hospitality. God has set boundaries around my world that protect me, and let me flourish.**

Leader: Despite the distraction of the world, day and night God anchors me, God gives me the strength to resist the seductions of the world.

**All: From my refuge, I can venture out, with a glad heart and a rejoicing soul, secure that I can return to God, not fall into a dark pit, a despairing, godforsaken hole.**

Leader: God has shown me the path forward in my life.

**All: God's refuge is abundant with joy and pleasure that will last a lifetime and beyond.**

Leader: Amen and ...

**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 Lead by Jamie Grace](#)**

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

## Notes:

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### Psalm 16

The psalm's opening section (vv. 1-4) begins with a plea for refuge that sets the tone of the prayer. The speaker is one who is faithful to God and delights in those in the community of faith who are loyal to God. Those who chase after idols while still confessing God's name are causing trouble in the community. The speaker of the psalm consistently confesses trust in the God who gives life, and rejects the other false gods.

The psalmist's affirmation of faith continues in verses 5-8. The terms used in verses 5-6 – "chosen portion," "lot," "boundary lines," and "heritage" – are those related to the possession of land. The inheritance of the land here is closely associated with God. Verse 8 affirms that the speaker is confident that God will provide deliverance from the crisis at hand and will provide for a vibrant life; all of that is in contrast to those worshipping both God and idols in the first part of the psalm.

The psalm's concluding verses (vv. 9-11) sing of trust in the God who delivers. The language is characteristic of those psalms that narrate God's deliverance from the power of death. God preserves the faithful one from death, and the psalmist looks forward to the fullness of life. The protection God provides brings rest (vv. 1,9). The prayer confesses faith in God's protection, and so its purpose is to engender trust in God from readers.

Modern readers will likely identify with the faithful psalmists, but could we also think of how we are like the enemies? The culture around us can easily corrupt our image of the divine and of faithfulness. In what ways are we loyal to the consumerism or division that dominate our culture? What does faithfulness to the living God mean in such a culture?

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 84-88.



## PRAYER LIST (6/26/22)

- 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 friends & family of Jane Jukes, Jocelyn Jones' mom, whose grace and humor will be deeply missed.
- 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: Morning<sup>1</sup>**

God of renewal and joy, thank you for a night of rest, for home, for companionship, and for all the gifts of Earth that make our lives possible. Give us this day the sustenance needed for the work we have ahead of us. Keep our vision clear and our resolve strong. Bless us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Household Prayer: Evening**

For this day, O God, we give you thanks. In all the joys that came our way, the challenges that showed us more about your world, the people who made our meals and journeys, you revealed your care. Keep us now this night from harm that when we rise from sleep, we will again give thanks and praise to you. Bless us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Questions for Reflection**

What new mantle is God placing on your shoulders? Where in your life is the new beginning, the unfamiliar task, the calling to a path on which the ending is yet unclear?

### **Daily Awareness Reflection<sup>2</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>1</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>2</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

### 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](mailto:arazz3914@gmail.com)).

### 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.](#)

## **Volunteers Needed for the Brookline Food Pantry**

They are looking for four more regular/long term volunteers to work at the pantry for two hour shifts on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the summer, and possibly continuing through the end of the year, depending on their availability and desire to serve.

Specifically, they need to fill Tuesdays & Thursdays 10-12 and 12-2; they have opportunities for younger friends on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 when there are fewer clients and it's much quieter if any middle/high school kids are interested.

To re-cap: most of the effort is just being a cheerful face and a heart of encouragement. We help people find what they need and just help in any way we can. There are no limitations, really...if you can breathe and you can smile you can do it!

## **Ongoing support for a local family to ease a burden**

A family in town has an ongoing need for a donation of women's size small Depends and flushable wipes. So far they doesn't have delivery through Medicare. Any support in this area would take a great weight off the family if you have people who are able.

## **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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

women's size small depends  
flushable wipes

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