



Brookline Community Church

July 10, 2022

*Rev. Catherine A. Merrill,
Minister*

Prelude: [*Help Us to Help Each Other, Lord*](#) by Mark Templeton, lyrics by Charles Wesley

Call To Worship, Psalm 25:1-10, pp. 435-436
Of David.

Leader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

**All: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

**All: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Leader: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**All: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

Leader: Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**All: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37, pp. 844-845

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Children's Message: What do we see?

Hymn: [Love One Another by Yancy, Little Praise Party](#)

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.

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

The response to “God of Compassion,” is “**hear our prayer.**”

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: [Love the Lord by Lincoln Brewster](#)

Love the Lord, your God, with all
your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength

Love the Lord, your God, with all
your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength

With all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, with all your
strength

Love the Lord, your God, with all
your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength

I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind,
And with all my strength

With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength

I will serve the Lord with all my heart

With all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

Put your hands together, c'mon

I will love You, sing it out (I will love
You)

I will praise You, lift hm up (I will
praise You)

I will serve You, Lord (I will serve
You)

I will trust You, Lord (I will trust You)

With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength

With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength

I will love You, Lord, with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

I will love You, Lord, with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

I will love You, Lord, with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn: [*I Will Follow by Chris Tomlin*](#)

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:**

Receive these gifts, O God.

May our lives be an offering that is pleasing to you,
good gifts that come from the knowledge of life in
Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. Amen..

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 25)

Leader: I have enemies and I have shame. But I am more than what I have. See me with your tender mercy, O God. Don’t let me die unseen on the side of the road.

All: It’s the ones who are truly treacherous who should feel shame. I believe in the LORD, so I can offer compassion to everyone, even enemies.

Leader: Let me keep learning how to offer compassion, how to accept compassion, how to help others when they are helping others.

All: I am so willing to learn, so willing to know your salvation. I am even willing to wait, if that’s what it takes.

Leader: Your mercy is with me always, as it has always been, always ready to let me start over, to begin again, to be born again.

All: I’ve made some mistakes, some real doozies. Remember me on my best days, not on my worst. And help the world see that I am more than my worst days.

Leader: You are used to helping sinners find the right path.
Teach me the way to go, so I can find *your* way in this world, not mine.

All: Your steadfast love will keep me going, the compassion you surround me with, the faithfulness you promised me will help me to keep walking, even when the world is without mercy.

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: Do Something by Matthew West

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalm 25

A psalm of petition, seeking God's intervention, Psalm 25 is an acrostic, with each verse beginning with the next letter of the alphabet. The acrostic gives it a rather diffuse and disconnected quality. The psalm has five themes:

1. The speaker relies completely and confidently on God's capacity and willingness to rescue them. The term "wait" (vv. 3, 5, 21) bespeaks eager longing and powerful expectation. The psalmist fully anticipates that God answers prayer and is capable of wondrous rescue.
2. The grounds for hope is God's steadfast love. The term steadfast love (*hesed*) occurs three times (vv. 6, 7, 10); in verse 6, the term is coupled with "mercy," and in verse 10 it is paired with "faithfulness." The three terms together – mercy, steadfast love, faithfulness – gave Israel a basis for well-being, even in a world of threat.
3. The speaker attests that he is a covenant-keeper who is fully devoted to God and to God's commands. Thus God's goodness is toward covenant-keepers.
4. The psalmist not only attests to faith but acknowledges failed faith and seeks pardon and forgiveness. A declaration of integrity and a confession of sin constitute no debilitating contradiction in the life of faith.
5. Thus the themes of fidelity and failure are juxtaposed; together they indicate the thick and complex relationship that believers have with God.

On the one hand, faith consists in a full acknowledgement of human need, hope, and dependence. On the other hand, it affirms the full, unqualified mercy of God toward the faithful. This mismatch between human ambiguity and divine singularity is the hallmark of biblical faith. The God addressed here is fully adequate for the entire spectrum of faithful life in the world.



PRAYER LIST (7/10/22)

- 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 Morris, John Nicholson's dad, who's facing significant health challenges
- For those struggling with thoughts of suicide
- For those facing major surgery
- For Ken, Amy's brother-in-law, who was in a car accident. He's fine, but the car is finished.
- For one of Amy & George's customers, who is having surgery for breast cancer, that she may recover quickly
- For Sanjay's sister, suffering from back pain
- 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 fighting on as the world's attention drifts away
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning¹

Arouse my heart, O God, to your love, and let me love my neighbor with the same consideration I desire for myself. Through Christ I pray. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

O God, you have held me and cared for my wounded soul in ways I may not have been aware. Let me now rest from the labors of this day, secure in your love. Through Christ I pray. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

How does the story of the compassionate Samaritan expand your understanding of who your neighbor may be? With whom do you identify most in this parable?

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 +/-
June	\$33,466	\$46,882	(\$13,416)

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.

ARE YOU 60 or OLDER or KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS? DO YOU LIKE A GREAT MEAL?

If you do ... BE ON THE BROOKLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON LIST. We have lunches periodically on Saturdays throughout the year just for the 60 and older crowd. If you are interested, just let us know how you would like to be contacted for notices of these lunches (email, mail, Facebook ..., etc.) Any questions.... just ask Megan King (kingmegan7@gmail.com) or Amy Razzaboni (arazz3914@gmail.com).

Call all empty Jam Jars! Leave them in the mailroom!

It's strawberry season, so it's strawberry jam season. If you have empty jars, I can use them for this season's jam-packed-with-love.

Public Hearing about Accepting Unanticipated Revenue, July 11th at 7pm

The Selectboard will be holding a Public Hearing beginning at 7pm on Monday, July 11th to accept and spend \$50,000 in unanticipated funds from the Locality Equipment Matching Program. The hearing will be held in the Town Hall meeting room at 1 Main Street. [More info.](#)

Discernment Meeting in July? Does Thursday, July 14th, 6:30pm work?

Please let Ann (moderator@bccnh.org) know if you plan to attend. If you would like to attend, but have a conflict, let her know what would work better for you.

Potluck Brunch Worship on July 17th at the Church

We can see in the gospels that eating together was an important part of Jesus' ministry, was a way that Jesus showed folks what the Kingdom of God was like. So, we're going to have a potluck brunch worship service and see how that

deepens our understanding of Jesus' message. Bring what you like, including just yourself!

UMC Lay Servant Ministry Conference July 23rd in Plymouth, NH

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit called the entire church to spread the word. But that can be challenging when you are "just" a lay member of the congregation without training. The UMC is offering a day long session on being the kind of ambassador that Jesus is calling everyone to be. If you're interested, see Rev. Cath (minister@bccnh.org) or Ann (moderator@bccnh.org) for more 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).

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

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