

# Brookline Community Church

2 Main Street, PO Box 507 Brookline, NH 03033

Reverend Catherine Merrill

[minister@bccnh.org](mailto:minister@bccnh.org)

603-673-7511 [www.bccnh.org](http://www.bccnh.org)



*good friday*

---

April 7, 2023



**Consider reading:**

<b>Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem</b>	Matthew 21:1-7, p. 802
<b>The Judgement of Nations</b>	Matthew 25:31-46,
<b>John's account of the Betrayal and Death of Jesus</b>	John 18-19, pp 880
<b>Matthew's account of the Betrayal and Death of Jesus</b>	Matthew 26-27, pp 808-811
<b>Luke's account of the Betrayal and Death of Jesus</b>	Luke 22-23, pp. 857-860
<b>Mark's account of the Betrayal and Death of Jesus</b>	Mark 14-15, pp. 826-829
<b>Isaiah prophesizes the Messiah</b>	Isaiah 53:1-9, pp. 596-597
<b>Jesus Prays for His Disciples</b>	John 17, pp. 879-880

**T**he parts of our country and our world torn by strife, caused by violence, war, terrorism, accident or natural disaster

**T**hose in conflict, those seeking forgiveness

**T**hose in prison

**T**he strangers whose lives have touched our hearts

**T**hose people finding new ways to address old problems, of race relations, of climate change, of income inequality, of unequal education, of religious intolerance

**T**hose who answer Your call as faithful disciples, who take up the challenge of the Cross and follow You.

**T**hose caught in war, fighting or displaced, including in Ukraine

**T**hose who are nourished by the church's Take Home Meals and Senior Luncheons

**T**hose who serve in and are served by our Outreach partners:

- Bridges
- Brookline Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Buckingham Place
- Disciple Makers
- Harbor Homes
- His Mansion
- Home Health & Hospice
- Marguerite's Place
- Nashua Habitat for Humanity
- Nashua Soup Kitchen
- Share Outreach
- Wycliffe Bible Translators
- UCC US Disaster Ministries
- Brookline Food Pantry

## ***Good Friday***

Good Friday is the day that hope died. Good Friday is the day that humanity went along with the crowd, took the easy path and finished the betrayal that had begun the night before. Jesus' supporters abandoned him to die alone. As Christians, we understand that even if we were not in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, we continue the betrayal. On Easter, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection, his forgiveness and return to us, his promise that there is more to life than this world. But for today, we acknowledge how flawed we are and how much we need his grace.

Taking part in the Good Friday prayer vigil allows us to individually and collectively reflect on the events that in some ways happened long ago and in some ways are happening now. It is also time to reconnect with the accounts of the events leading to Christ's death. Sometimes in reading them again, we find new connections with them that have arisen as we have grown another year older and wiser.

Feel free to pray and reflect as the Spirit moves you. This time is sacred and it is blessed by your presence and your willingness to step into it.

But if you would like some guidance, you might consider praying for those on the following list. You may also want to read the Biblical accounts of Holy Week. If you can, hold off on reading the Easter stories. There will be a time for that most joyful news to come back into the world, but today is a day to join the faithful across the centuries as we realize what it is like to face a future without the hope and promise Christ offers.



### *Private Devotions*

We capture prayer requests every week. There are dozens and dozens of them, which are grouped into categories on the following pages. On the table in the front of the sanctuary is an envelope which contains all the weekly prayer request lists that have appeared in our bulletins. There are also blank pieces of paper on which you can write your own prayer requests to add to the envelope.

Once you have made your private devotions, you might consider holding the envelope and saying, "Loving God, I add my prayers to these. Please watch over all those whose requests are enclosed within. May they feel Your loving presence even more in the coming year. Amen."

#### **During your private devotions, please consider praying for:**

**T**hose who have lost loved ones this past year, including the friends and families of:

Dave Kinney	Leslie Fyfe
Lois Adams	Ed Krom
Jesse Delrossi	Scott Higgins
Louise Ponti	Ron Whitebred
Nancy Richards	Chris Crowder
Jane Jukes	Morris Nicholson
Edith Corey	Andrew Gonterman
Sandy Garvin	Flora Kenyon
Carol Austin Mastin	Eddy Razzaboni
Tom Hoff	Polly Foley

**T**he sick and afflicted and all who love them, including those with chronic and terminal illnesses, including dementia, those living in nursing homes, those recovering from health issues that afflict us all at one point or another, those suffering from mental illness, those facing a long, slow recovery, those caught in addiction, those contemplating suicide

**T**hose helping ease the suffering of the sick and afflicted, anywhere in the world

**T**he pets and wild creatures who keep us company on our journeys through life

**F**irst responders who arrive early to emergencies and the families and friends who support them

**F**amilies, children and marriages of those in our congregation and all over the world, including families with financial difficulties, families caring for other family members, students in college and young adults with their first jobs, those who are struggling with marital conflicts, families in crisis

**T**he two children we sponsor through Compassion International, Wisnadine in Haiti and Quebin in Mexico

**T**hose whose homes are in transition, those with people moving in or out, those without homes, those far from their homes, especially those seeking refuge from violence

**T**hose serving in the military and their families

**T**hose in elected office in our town, our state, our country and throughout the world, that they may serve faithfully and wisely

**T**hose searching for new jobs or new meaning in existing jobs

**T**hose caught in the pandemic of Covid-19.