



Brookline Community Church

May 2, 2021

Reverend Catherine A. Merrill, Minister

Every part of worship has a video, so we've gathered them together in a [play list](#) If you click on "Play All" they'll play from the beginning of the service to the end! And you can just follow along, never clicking on another link. Or you can go through clicking on all the individual links – your choice.

Call to Worship

As branches depend on the sap of the vine.

So our souls depend on the Life that comes from God.

As the vine is built up by the branches,

So we build up this church by our presence and our devotion

People of God, let us come to the Fountain of Life with hearts full of praise.

Let us taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Come, let us worship God together!

Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth" John Rutter version

Joys & Concerns

We rejoice in the gifts of life and growth in Christ:

We thank you, God, for the beauties of a northern spring, for the shadbush and daffodil, the birdsong and the spring peeper. - life renewed, ancient and yet fresh.

We celebrate the good things which have come to us:

John Panto's colleague, Jim, who is cancer free after a long period of chemo.

We pray for expectant parents and grandparents.

O Lord, sometimes a branch may be weakened, torn, bruised, stained, or withered - by insects, by strong winds, by untimely frost, or just by the wear and tear of living in this messy world.

No one of us perfect, yet each of us has strength to share.

As fellow branches of the same holy vine, we pray to you to send healing and comfort to our faltering brothers and sisters.

Let us pray to our loving, all powerful, eternally fruitful God

Holy one: We pray for our nation, that our leaders be wise and compassionate. We pray for ourselves, that in our community life we show mutual respect and patience in all our encounters, from chance conversations in the supermarket, to Town Meeting deliberations, to online postings.

We pray for the natural world, that we may honor and preserve the precious web of life God has given us.

We pray for the church, that even in these changeable times, it may remain true to the vine from which it grows, and may bear fruits of worship, mission, and service.

We pray for this congregation, that its ministries of education and learning will find new ways to impart its joys and promises to all.

We pray for those in pain and sickness, and for their loved ones and caregivers. Give them strength as they wait patiently for cures and medications yet undeveloped. O Holy One, we pray to you for all who live in chronic pain or crippling illness, mental or physical.

Especially today we pray for:

John Panto's sister in law, Lori, who continues her battle with cancer as her Chemo Therapy continues.

We pray for Stella Hatgiannis, who is at home from the hospital recovering from Covid and bronchitis.

We pray for Jill's cousin, Ginette Greene, who continues her fight with breast cancer.

We pray for Vicki Goodwin, who is recovering from COVID at home.

We pray for Tammy Mc Kay who is recovering from COVID at home.

We pray for Tom McKay who is hospitalized in the ICU at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua with COVID.

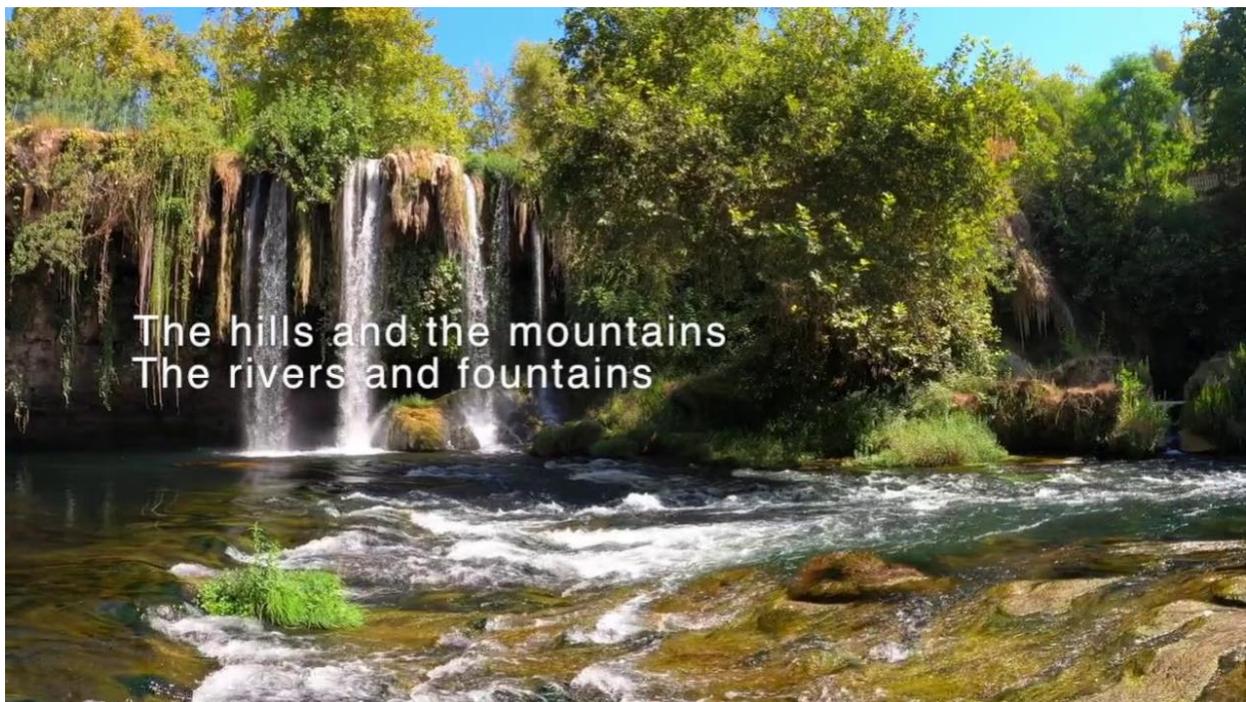
We pray for Rev. Cath as she recuperates at home and prepares for her knee surgery, which is being rescheduled

All this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray

The Lord's Prayer

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 us your joys & concerns and we'll include them in our prayers: Barbara Haskell-Higgins at barbarajh@comcast.net.]



Hymn

Let All Things Now Living

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-21

4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.
4:9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.
4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
4:11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.
4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.
4:13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.
4:15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.
4:16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.
4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.
4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.
4:19 We love because he first loved us.
4:20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.
4:21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8

15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.
15:2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.
15:3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.
15:4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.
15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.
15:6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Scripture Reflection

Hymn

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

Time of Giving

Invitation to Give

Prayer of Dedication

All good gifts, past, present, future, come from you, O God.
Knowing this, we bring you our gifts, small as they may seem,
so that we may be gifts to one another, and to the world.
For so Jesus taught and lived.
Amen.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week
Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene,
on the same day sat at the table with two disciples,
and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.
Men and women,
youth and children,
come for the east and the west,
from the north and the south,
and gather about Christ's table.

This table is for all Christians
who wish to know the presence of Christ
and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion prayer

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mystery, for calling forth creation and raising us from
dust by the breath of your being,

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing
by all will mean scarcity for none.

We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel and we give you thanks for all our
ancestors in faith. We rejoice at your call to reconciliation, and that you remain faithful to your
covenant even when we are faithless.

We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory.

We come remembering and celebrating the gift of Jesus Christ, sent in the fullness of time, to
be the Good News.

Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Jesus lived among us and shared our common lot.

He suffered and died on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live with you in glory.

Pastoral prayer of Institution

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover.

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying:

“This is my body, broken for you. Do this, in remembrance of me”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying”This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All Christ has died,.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Call to the supper

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come now, for all things are ready.

Sharing the Elements

The body of Christ. The bread of heaven

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God,

We give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,

And send us forth into the world in courage and peace,

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Lord, may our knowledge of your will grant us spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Lord, help us to lead a life worthy of your sacrifice for us, enable us to be fruitful in every good work, increasing in your knowledge, strengthened according to Your glorious power. May we abide with all patience and long-suffering in Jesus Christ our life-giving vine. Amen.

Amen

Hymn

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Benediction

Go forth into the world in the name of Jesus;

to serve God with gladness;

Be of good courage;

Hold fast to that which is good;

Render to no-one evil for evil:

strengthen the faith hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted

honor all people; love and serve God,

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Invite all you meet to become a part of the true vine and the community of love.

Amen

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.



PRAYER LIST (05/02/21)

If you know those on this list, call on them & tell them we are praying for them. If you know others who should be added to this list please give their names to the minister or a deacon.

- Friends & family of Jerry King, Tre Rouse, Tasha Feller, Pat Tiner, Terry House, Rev. Tom Atherton, June Hoff and Dave Larkin.
- Luca, Amy's nephew, as his new treatment appears to be having effect
- Those affected by the corona virus and those working to limit its impact
- Those suffering from domestic violence, who are caught at home with their abusers at a time of rising stress, that they might find safe havens.

- 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;
- We pray for Rev. Cath as she recuperates at home and prepares for her knee surgery, which is being rescheduled.
- John Panto's sister in law, Lori, who continues her battle with cancer as her Chemo Therapy continues For expectant parents and grandparents
- For Vicki Goodwin, who is recovering from COVID at home
- For Tammy McKay who is recovering from COVID at home
- For Tom McKay who is hospitalized in the ICU at St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua with COVID
- For Stella Hatgiannis who is at home from the hospital recovering from COVID and bronchitis
- For Jill's cousin, Ginette Greene, who continues her fight with breast cancer.
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayers

Household Morning

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with me through the hours. I thank you for the breath and strength I have, and I beg your help that I may use my powers wisely and with compassion toward everyone I meet. Let my questions today be a form of pruning to bring forth in me new understandings, healing, and good fruit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Sweet Jesus, in this night of rest, heal my broken places and restore my faith. You are my vine; only in you am I strong enough to face the darkness of this world. I thank you for the safety of

my home and pray for those who have no bed tonight. Make me grateful, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of us all. Amen.

Question for Reflection

What is your deepest desire? Jesus says that “whatever you wish . . . it will be done for you” (John 15:7). Spend time in the next days asking yourself at evermore profound levels what you most devoutly wish for in this life and the next. Then ask for it.

Announcements:

Please shop smile.amazon.com and choose Brookline Community Church as your charity to support the church. Thanks!

The church’s financial obligations continue. If you are able, please mail your offering to:
Brookline Community Church, PO Box 507, Brookline, NH 03033.

| BCC YTD Financial Summary | Actual Income | Actual Expenses | Income vs Expenses + / - |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| March | \$24,471 | \$22,683 | \$1,788 |

The March/April edition of *The Upper Room* is available in the mail room, if you're looking for a printed daily Scripture reading and reflection to add to your spiritual practice.

Covid-19 Scams Targeting Seniors

The NH Attorney General's office put out a press release describing several scams that are targeting seniors. The claims range from needing personal information to get their Social Security payments, to being family members in need of cash to treat Covid-19 symptoms, to offers of fake medical products to prevent Covid-19, to needing personal information to get their stimulus checks, to fake charities. (Honestly, what are people like?!?). Please pass the word.

Covid-19 Information

If people want to know the latest status of Covid-19 in NH and the Emergency orders to date, go to <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

Brookline Rotary Club

As this link describes, for \$50 a year, the Brookline Rotary will set up an American flag on your property for five days on 5 major patriotic holidays. They then take it down and store it until the next holiday. It is a service that helps you fly the colors while supporting the Rotary Club's good works in the community.

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

Brookline Food Pantry

Although we cannot be together physically at this time, Outreach is continuing to work with Rebecca Purdin 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. In addition to Market Basket gift cards, this week, they're looking for:

Pickles, Cookies, Cookie Mix, Cheese Nip (or similar) crackers, Jello/Gelatin (any flavor), Sardines, Cereal (especially Raisin Bran or "fun" cereals) Apple or Cranberry Juice, Paper Towels, Coffee, Disposable Razors, Dry Cat Food, Dry Dog Food, Dish Soap, and Zip-Style Bags

If you know of anyone who could use some help from the Food Pantry, please let Rebecca 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. Thank you for your continued support to our church and our community

