



Worship Service

Brookline Community Church

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Brookline, NH 03033

Reverend Catherine Merrill

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September 11, 2022

10:00 am

*** INTROIT: #492 *I Will Sing of My Redeemer***

CALL TO WORSHIP, Psalm 51:1-10, p. 452

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

**All: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgement.

**All: Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Leader: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**All: Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON: What's in the Lost and Found?

HYMN: #470 *Jesus Loves Me This I Know

PRAYER TO REMEMBER 9/11

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PSALM 23: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

HYMN #109 *I Cannot Tell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: O Lord, forgive your foolish people.
We are skilled in doing evil,
but we do not know how to do good.
Create in us a clean heart, O God;

All: put a new and right spirit within us.

Leader: In the folly of our hearts
we live as though there is no God.
Create in us a clean heart, O God;

All: put a new and right spirit within us.

Leader: We forget all you have done for us,
and make false idols to be our gods.
Create in us a clean heart, O God;

All: put a new and right spirit within us.

Leader: We act faithlessly, violently,
and scorn your name.
Create in us a clean heart, O God;

All: put a new and right spirit within us.

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ
Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear the good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION:

Leader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God most high.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

HYMN #522 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 15:1-10, p. 850

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

REFLECTION ON THE SCRIPTURE

MINISTRY OF SHARING: (offering of tithes and gifts)

* 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 OF THE OFFERING

We rejoice and give you thanks, O God, for the lost have been found, sinners have received mercy, and the dead have been restored to life. Send us out in your service to tend your sheep and show the riches of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **CLOSING HYMN: #502 *Amazing Grace***

* PRAYER TO SEND US BACK OUT INTO THE WORLD: (A riff on Ps. 51:1-10)

Leader: Please be loving and merciful to me, O God, because I've made a mess of things and I need your help to start over.

All: I could say I need your help to clean up the mess, but, honestly, I can't even get the clean up started. You have to do it.

Leader: I have turned away from you and all the lessons you taught through people around me. You'd be entirely justified to just write me off.

All: I'm human, I was born imperfect, but I have really lost my way recently. You only want the best for me. You are the best part of me and you are built into me, just like all my flaws.

Leader: Help me clean up my life, turn things around, and the guilt and shame that seem to hold me up and hold me back will be crushed. Let me clean up and bring joy and gladness into my life.

All: Instead of turning your face away from me, ignore my shortcomings and failures. Let me be created again, created in your image, with your breath in my lungs and your light in my eyes.

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: [**The 99 by 7eventh Time Down**](#)

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

*** Please stand in body or Spirit**

Psalm 51

This psalm is the best known of the seven “penitential psalms.” It is an extended confession of sin and an anticipation of new life grounded in divine forgiveness.

In the beginning (vv. 1-2), God is characterized by: *mercy, steadfast love,* and abundant *mercy*. The psalmist is characterized by: *sin, transgression,* and *iniquity*. God’s mercy and steadfastness will override sin, transgression and iniquity.

Verses 3-5 describe a life before God that creates an awareness of sin that eventually leads to hope for life beyond sin. In verses 6-7, the psalmist begins to think beyond guilt and alienation. By reflecting on what God desires, truth and wisdom, the psalmist moves toward newness and the recovery of joy.

By verse 10, the poem moves from confession to petition in a series of imperatives that show hope for a renewed, restored relationship with God. Thus the imperatives “create, put, do not cast, do not take, restore, sustain,” followed in verse 14 by “deliver,” articulate conviction that God is willing to move life beyond alienation.

In response to such a gift, which must be given by God, the speaker promises to teach others about the possibility of new life (v. 13) and to praise God in the congregation (v. 14). The speaker anticipates a life wholly given over in gladness to God. That is, the relational aspects of genuine communion are what are now required. For good reason, verses 18-19 are most often regarded as an addendum to the psalm.

This psalm is an intense and honest tracing of the route from an old life of alienation to a new life of glad relationship. The psalmist does not doubt God’s readiness for such a relationship, given God’s readiness to begin again.

Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, Jr. *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 234-240.

9/11/2022 Household Prayers

Household Prayer: Morning

O Lord, have mercy on us this day according to your steadfast love.

Create clean hearts and new spirits within us and open our lips to declare your praise; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Tonight, O God, we give you thanks for your grace overflowing in our lives and for the gifts of faith and love in Christ. Strengthen us for your service, be patient with us in our failings, and continue to pour out your mercy upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[or]

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for seeking us when we were lost, for sweeping us up from the darkness, for gathering us into your fold, and for holding us in the palm of your hand.

Bring all your wandering children home, so that there may be rejoicing in your church and joy in the presence of your angels; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Questions for Reflection

In Luke 15:1–10, Jesus tells the parable of a shepherd who seeks out one lost sheep and a woman who searches her home for a missing coin. Is there someone from whom you are estranged, a distant friend or family member, or a person from your church you haven't seen in a while? If appropriate, find a way to contact that person and let them know you have missed them.

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PRAYER LIST (9/11/2022)

- Friends & family of Braedon O'Connor, Elly Austin, Patty Birner, Jesse Delrossi, Jane Jukes, Edith Corey, Sandy Garvin.
- For the friends & families of those who have died alone
- For Luca, Amy's nephew, whose treatments continue
- For those struggling with thoughts of suicide
- For Polly, John Panto's sister, recovering from a stroke, who's moving into another facility
- For Mike Esposito, Miracle Mike, friend of Susan and Russell's family, returning to the hospital for more surgery
- For Cassandra, Amy's mom, on the loss of her sister Linda
- For the family of Laura Finocchiaro who lost their home and all their worldly goods,
- For Ann's dad, who took a tumble,
- For Joe, Candy's family friend, who, at 90, is suffering from internal bleeding the doctors can't locate, may they find the problem soon
- For the Stritchfield family, Donna's childhood neighbor, who lost Everett and Mary, may they know the love that surrounds them and the impact they have had on those around them,
- For the friends and family of Carol Austin Matson, Kathi Whitcomb's mother, who passed away a few weeks ago, may they know the love that surrounds them.
- For the people of Ukraine, who fight on, even as the world looks elsewhere
- For the people of Taiwan, searching for peace in the face of hostility
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayer
- Individuals serving in our military & their families