Photo by Mustafa Fatemi:

Prelude:

Welcome & Right Hand of Fellowship

Extend a greeting to those nearby

Call To Worship, Psalms 43, p. 448

Leader: Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!

**All: For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?**

Leader: O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

**All: Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.**

Leader: Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?

**All: Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.**

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Children's Message: *What are you practicing?*

Hymn: *10,000 Reasons*

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name (REPEAT)

A Prayer of Joys and Concerns:

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 #584 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 23:1-12, p. 804

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

RESPONSE: #820 Threefold Amen (Danish)

Reflection on the Scripture:

Hymn The Servant Song

Brother sister let me serve you
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on a journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the peace you long to hear

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

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:**

We give our offerings not to please God,
but to live in thanksgiving for all God's gifts.

Know that what you give is a response
to the word of hope that lives in you. Amen

Announcements

A Prayer to Send us Back Out into the World (a riff on Psalm 43)

Leader: I don't know where this cold, sad, blue mood comes from, but it is riding me hard.

All: But I'm ready for you to step in God, and to start taking names. Because there is a whole pack of ungodly, deceitful, unjust jackals around me.

Leader: You are my refuge, my light, my truth. Lead me to your holy hill that is lost somewhere inside me at the moment.

All: Find me and then help me find my way back to you. I hope in you, I praise you. I remember that life is not always like this. I will praise and pray again soon, and the cold, blue mood will drain away in the warmth of your love.

Leader: Amen and

All: Amen.

Hymn #579 *I Surrender All*

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

Here ends our worship, now let our service begin.

Notes:

Psalms 42 & 43

Several Hebrew manuscripts have Psalms 42 and 43 as one psalm, so we'll do the same.

This is the prayer of a person in crisis. There are three parts (Ps. 42:1-5, Ps. 42:6-11, Ps 43:1-5) marked off by an unusual refrain, a dialogue with the self. The psalm moves from complaint to petition to a hopeful conclusion.

The psalm begins with a deer thirsting for water but arriving at a dry, sandy stream. Just as water is necessary for life and the deer's need is urgent, so God is necessary for life and the speaker's need for God's presence is urgent. Rather than drinking in the refreshing water of worship, the speaker pours out the salt water of tears. When the water imagery shifts to the great chaotic deep, the speaker is overwhelmed, only to remember that God's steadfast love has saved others who have been pummeled by suffering.

The psalm makes it very clear that both despair and hope inhabit life, and both can lead to maturity. The poetic movement of the parts of this psalm takes the petitioner beyond a private grief to hope found in a worshiping community shaped by God, so the psalm portrays the faithful person at prayer with the companions of both hope and despair, and, in the middle of this crisis, the faithful person remembers God's unswerving love and trustworthiness (Ps 42:8).

Much of the hope the petitioner finds in this psalm is tied to worship. That worship makes possible the move from the poignant yearning in the psalm's first line to the hope in its last line. The hope is in the life-giving presence of God.

Based on Walter Brueggemann and William H. Bellinger, *Psalms, in New Cambridge Bible Commentary* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 202-207.

PRAYER LIST **(11/2/2026)**

- Friends & family of Beth Gay, Ethel Long, George Ferrell, Bronwen Evans, David Michaud, Mark Fessenden, Dave Sheldon, Dorothy Hackett.
- For the people of the Middle East whose lives continue to be upturned by conflict and by the members of the military and their families as they step into harm's way
- For Nick Panto, John's great nephew, being deployed to the Middle East
- For Shelby, Kym's granddaughter, being deployed to Israel
- For Fred, Susan's brother, at home but still facing a long recovery
- For all those facing the chaos of natural disasters.
- For Kim's brother-in-law, started in the ER and now looking for a bed in a larger hospital
- For Dee & Dave's journey out west, may they have a trip of great memories and peaceful moments
- For Cassie, Amy's mom, working with an expanding number of medical specialists to make sure she's doing ok
- For Rachel, Sanjay's mom, home from the hospital but having to receive much more assistance and outside decisions than she is comfortable with
- For the friends and family of Jen, Jill's friend, who passed away after living with cancer for four years
- For the families of runaways, who know a unique and devastating kind of worry
- For his Holiness Pope Leo the 14th as he recovers from cancer surgery
- For the friends and family of Steve Merrill and Janet Jones, Rev. Cath's cousins whose lives were recently celebrated by the extended family
- For the people of Ukraine as they struggle to preserve their communities
- For the people of Taiwan
- For those who have no one to pray for them, accept our prayers
- Individuals serving in our military & their families

Household Prayer: Morning[1]

You have made the day, O God, to be a sign of your light, showering Earth with clarity and gladness. I thank you for this day, asking only that in all that I do and say, your joy in this world will shine through; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

For rest and quiet, you have made the night, O God. The day's activity has slowed, and your people prepare for a time to dream. I thank you for all that has transpired in these last hours and for the assurance that with sleep will come, as well, your presence and guardianship. Bless this night, in the name of eternal goodness: Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Question for Reflection:

Each day this week, look for one example of exquisite humility exercised by someone (a family member, friend, neighbor, stranger, yourself) and meditate on what it means that the one who is humble is the greatest among us.

Daily Awareness Reflection[2]

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 …

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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[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

Candy Donation for Trick or Treaters at the Church!

We have a family who will be here to hand out candy. Now we need to get them something to hand out! Any donations are welcome! See Candy (who else? secretary@bccnh.org) for details.

Painting the Church Has Begun!

As everyone who has ever done it knows, painting is all prep work. So you'll see the crew working on the exterior of the church. They won't block off the parking lot, but please keep out of their way if you swing by during the week. Any questions? Please contact Susan Haight (sdlhaight@gmail.com).

10/31, 11:30-1:00pm Senior Luncheon: Turkey Dinner

If you're interested in helping out, contact Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com). Or just joining our seniors for some great conversation and a great meal, please come to the Social Hall at 11:30am.

11/1 Daylight Saving Ends

It's time to fall back – make sure you adjust your clock or you'll arrive in time for the benediction!

11/1 Wrapping up the Christmas Raffle Baskets

We're getting the baskets ready for their photo shoots, so we can have a productive on-line raffle. We're looking for some more additions to two baskets in particular:

- Spirit Basket: the alcohol themed basket needs some filling out
- No Batteries Required Basket: we have a Clue game, and a cross stitch kit. We're looking for some activities and gifts that kids would enjoy that let them enjoy life off-screen and off-grid.

Contact Donna Bretschneider (dbret@charter.net) for more info.

11/15, 8:30am Faith Formation Has Got a Great Story to Tell!

This year we're focusing on the Parables of Jesus, and we have some great ones – seeds, second sons, so much more. Kids have their session; adults have theirs. Come and see what forms up in your faith – it starts at 8:30am except where noted: 11/15, 12/20 at 9:30, 1/17 at 9:30, 2/7, 3/7, 3/28 at 9:30, 5/16 and 6/20 at 9:30!

Food Pantry Can Now Take Donations through Amazon

Belletetes in Brookline has generously offered to allow Amazon to deliver food donations at their store location. The pantry's current Amazon wish list is at: https://tinyurl.com/Brookline-NH-Pantry. There's a fuller list of what they're looking for at the end of the bulletin.

12/19 Wreaths Across Brookline 2026

Wreaths Across Brookline 2026
Let's Honor and remember our Veterans
Ceremony/Wreath laying will be @ Pine Grove Cemetery
December 19, 2026 at 12PM

To sponsor a wreath(s)
www.wreathsacrossamerica/NH0052

Questions or want to help?
Please mail Lynn:
wreathsacrossbrookline@gmail.com

WREATHS across AMERICA
KEEP MOVING FORWARD

Venmo cash donations:

Keep the Church Locked if You're There Alone

In August we received a notice from the UMC that female clergy in NH had received threats. They recommended ways to increase security, which include keeping the church doors locked if you're in the church alone. But since no one can tell who's inside, it's best to keep the doors locked if you're there by yourself.

Putting Faith into Action: Possible Projects

We're trying to figure out where best to put our energies as a church as we share some of the abundance we find in our faith. Our current list of ideas is below. We'd love to hear from members of the church if any of these resonate with you enough that you'd be willing to help get them off the ground.

- Open up to new participants and invite people for volunteering/help
- Identify people who will monitor and represent BCC at community events to foster more cross collaboration
- Agree on events to invite community members to participate in
- Train members in making church invitations & collecting contact info
- Create practices/events that help BCC members connect more deeply
- Enhance online worship and digital outreach
- Create social media marketing strategy
- Identify team to actively drive and be responsible for social media presence

Help with the Food Pantry

Brookline Food Pantry is looking for volunteers for the following days/times:

- Thursdays from 10AM-1PM at the food pantry here in the church
- A couple of Wednesday mornings a month to pick up Hannafords' donations and bring them back to the church. This will involve some lifting.

You would not have to commit to every Thursday or every Wednesday morning. They would appreciate any help that you can provide within your schedule.

Please contact Lynn Giblin at foodpantry@brooklinenh.gov

The Brookline food pantry is open on Tuesdays 10-1:00pm and 6-7:00pm and & Thursdays 10-1:00pm. Brookline Food Pantry's Facebook page has updates.

If there's anyone who could use some help from the Food Pantry, please let Amy (arazz3914@gmail.com) know.

Email & Text Scams may appear to come from the church!

You may get an email or text that appears to come from the church or Rev. Cath asking for money or gift cards. We won't ever do that, so you can ignore them.

There's a task list in the Social Hall if you could help with a church project

Some are bigger than others; some will require supplies that the church will provide. If you have a few hours and would be willing to take on a task, we would appreciate the help!

Help Lines

You may know someone who needs some support beyond what you can provide.

- Suicide prevention: 1-800-273-8255 (or 988)
- Sexual assault: 1-800-656-4673
- Domestic violence: 1-800-799-7233

The church's financial obligations continue.

	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Income vs. Expenses +/-
September	$62,399	$90,846	($28,447)

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.

Brookline Community Church 2027 Pledge

Where is Brookline Community Church headed?

- Continue turning our faith into actions that benefit our community
- Deepen our faith through ministry, witness, and shared learning experiences
- Share the fellowship bubbling up among us more broadly within and without
- Learn and practice invitation in traditional and unexpected ways

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: (____)_____-_____

Street Address: _____

Financial Support:
In response to God's gift of love through Christ and because I desire to support the church's ministries, I plan to give:

$_____ each week / month / other _____ (please circle one)

or $_____ as a one-time gift

I understand that this is an estimate of my ability to give and that if circumstances change, I can put a note in the offering plate or contact the Treasurer to adjust my pledge.

Please return your completed pledge in the offering plate or by mail to:

Brookline Community Church
Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 507
Brookline, NH 03033

Brookline Community Food Pantry

Current needs: 9/3/2026

Ketchup
Dish soap
Laundry detergent sheets/Dishwasher pods
Ground Coffee
Mayonnaise
Sugar
Spices/Baking powder/Baking soda
Pancake mix
Syrup
Cereal
Paper towels
Mac and cheese
Deodorant

Donations can be dropped off Tues/Thurs 10:30-1 and Tues Eve 6-7PM

If you prefer to order items through Amazon the wish list can be found at this link:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3UECUBK2CFOH0?ref_=wl_share

Amazon/Market Basket Gift Cards are always welcome too!

As always, we thank all our community members that continue to donate to our food pantry.