



# The Congregational Church of Needham

*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ*

January 1, 2017

*On Communion Sunday's students attend Bible Village first and then join Worship for communion.*

## **PRELUDE**

Sheep May Safely Graze from Cantata BWV 208  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Heike

## **CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

### **\*OPENING HYMN # 135 (NCH)**

**O Come, All You Faithful**

## **INVOCATION**

### **Welcoming a New Year**

A new year stands on my doorstep  
ready to enter my life's journey.

Something in me welcomes this visitor:  
the hope of bountiful blessings  
the joy of a new beginning  
the freshness of unclaimed surprises

Something in me rebuffs this visitor:  
the swiftness of the coming  
the boldness of the entrance  
the challenge of a year's good-bye.

Something in me fears this visitor:  
the unnamed events of future days  
the wisdom needed to walk love well  
the demands of giving away and growing.

A new year stands on my doorstep.  
with fragile caution I move  
to open the door for its entrance,  
my heart leaps with surprise,

joy jumps in my eyes,  
for there beside this brand new year  
stands my God with outstretched hand!

God smiles and gently asks of me:  
can we walk this year together?

And I, so overwhelmed with goodness,  
can barely whisper my reply: "Welcome in!"

## ANTHEM

Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year  
*Alfred Fedak*

## SELECTION OF READINGS

**John 1: 1-13**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

## HYMN # 417 (NCH)

**This Is a Day of New Beginnings**  
**Vs. 1-4**

## SERMON

**"Christmassing"**  
Rev. Heike Werder

## OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

*In each of our pews today is a black friendship book which we encourage you to fill out and pass to the person next to you during the offering. If you have been with us before, just put down your name, but if you are new today, please let us know who you are. Thanks!*

## Offertory Anthem

Now is the Old Year Passed Away  
*Praetorius arr. John Finley Williamson*

## **\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## *Prayer of Dedication*

## CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

### *Invitation*

One: May the God of new beginnings be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: People of God, lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the One who makes all things, including us, new.**

One: Children of God, sing praises to the One who gives you new life.

**All: We praise the One who continues to surprise us with hope and grace.**

One: Let us pray -

*Communion Prayer and Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)*

*Words of Institution*

*Prayer of Consecration*

*Sharing of the elements*

*Communion Music*

*Communion Prayer*

Cici Hunt

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

### **New Year's Hymn**

**Lyrics by Carolyn Winfrey Gillett**

**Sung to the tune: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,  
God, we gather as your people, called to put our trust in you.  
You have made the world we live in; you have worked through history.  
In your plan we find our purpose, in your love, our unity.

Long ago, you sent our Savior to this world in deep despair.  
In your Word made flesh you came, our life to know, our sins to bear.  
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:  
Yesterday, today, forever-- Jesus Christ is still the same!

Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,  
You have called your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.  
Each new generation hears you, each must find a fresh new way  
To make known the life you offer, to the people in their day.

On this day, we pause and wonder what the future years will bring,  
Yet we know you clothe each flower and you make each sparrow sing.  
How much more will you protect us with your guiding, caring hand!  
By your Spirit, lead us boldly in the future you have planned.

### **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Heike

### **POSTLUDE**

Hosanna!  
*Arthur Foote*

*\*You are invited to stand*

*Worship Assistant: Crosby Goshgarian, Jr.*

*Deacons: Rick Devereux, Sunu Yeh*

*Altar Guild: Diane Myers, Carol Miller*

*Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel, Robert Kennedy*

*Flowers: Mary Lou Hughes*

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of  
Martin and Gladys Edman by Mary Lou Hughes.

**Rev. Jim Mitulski's Office Hours**

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment during his office hours of Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm;  
Thursday 2-5pm

\*If these times do not work for you please contact  
the office for alternate availability.

**Staff**

Interim Senior Minister  
The Rev. Jim Mitulski  
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*The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Guatemala Partner-Family Letters Due January 1st:** It's time to write your partner-family letter for your family in Santa María Tzejá, so that they can be translated in time to be packed up and delivered to eagerly awaiting hands in February! Deadline: January 1st. Please send your letter to Dave Johnson: [davebjohnson77@gmail.com](mailto:davebjohnson77@gmail.com). Thank you.

### **2017 Calendars to Support Santa Maria Tzeja**

Last Chance: Reduced-Price Calendars - Calendars to benefit Santa Maria Tzeja are now \$12 apiece or two for \$20. Get yours at the Guatemala table after worship today! And many thanks to all those who help support our partner village with your purchase.

### **February Diversity Book Group with First Baptist Church and First Unitarian Universalists: February 28 at First Baptist Church**

**MARCH: Book 1** - a graphic novel by Congressman John Lewis (suggested by John Kirk.) **MARCH Book 3** just won the National Book Award [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/graphic-novel-march-book-3-wins-national-book-award/2016/11/17/eeb497aa-ac7b-11e6-8b45-f8e493f06fcd\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.cb8289d0f36c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/graphic-novel-march-book-3-wins-national-book-award/2016/11/17/eeb497aa-ac7b-11e6-8b45-f8e493f06fcd_story.html?utm_term=.cb8289d0f36c). You have plenty of time to read it even if you have never read a graphic novel. Be adventurous! Take a risk!

**Village Fair 2017:** Planning ahead... The **Garden Fence** and **Rustic Chic** people hope you will be thinking of them over the next few weeks in particular. As you put away your Christmas decorations you may find that some of the items may lend themselves to the magic and inspiration of the **Garden Fence** people as they look ahead to making their creations for next year's Fair. The **Rustic Chic** people are hoping you will save your wine corks as you celebrate the season. Any of these items that you might have may be labeled (GF and/or RC) and put in the kitchenette. All of us at the **Village Fair** are thinking and planning for the next year and we look forward to your support.

## Youth News

**Stay Connected Follow @NeedhamUCC on Instagram** for updates on church life, particularly from our family ministries including Christian Education and Youth Ministries!

**Epiphany Party:** Mark your calendars now to join us in celebrating Epiphany on **Friday, January 6 from 6:30-8:30**. Come for any/all of the evening. We will serve pizza and salad as well as King Cake. We'll have singing and blessings and fun activities for all ages. Go through your closets and bring any gently worn coats you may have as we will be collecting coats for One Warm Coat. And... if you want to dress to impress, wear your shiniest outfit! We're celebrating the kings arriving underneath that brilliant, shining star after all! RSVPs are not required but are helpful --Email Maddie at [youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org)

**Bible Village Winter Open House:** Sunday, February 12 during and after worship you are invited to join your children in their Sunday School classes and to participate with them in their faith journeys.

### **April VBS: God's Kingdom: Tuesday, April 18 - Friday, April 21; 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

Whether you're an adventurous princess or a courageous knight, you'll love learning about all the stories that bring meaning to our world - particularly the story we ourselves are characters in... the story of God and God's people! We'll explore the important stories of our faith using arts and crafts, storytelling, theater, games, and cooking workshops. Cooking workshops do not use nuts but some items may be processed on shared equipment. VBS is open to students up to grade 5. Pre-K participants must be potty-trained. Students in grades 9-12 may apply to work as Counselors; students in grades 6-8 may apply to participate as volunteer Counselors-in-training. Registration required by Sunday, March 19; Scholarships available.

**Christian Education/Sunday School :** Volunteer teachers needed. It takes a village! We need teachers for all of our classes! Sign up to teach at: <http://www.tinyurl.com/SignUp2Teach>

## January 1—January 15

Sunday, January 1st	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Monday, January 2nd <b>New Year's Day</b>		Office Closed
Tuesday, January 3rd	10:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl, <i>1180 GPA</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, January 5th	12:00pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>1180 GPA</i> Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Friday, January 6th	6:30 pm	Family Epiphany Party
Sunday, January 8th <b>Epiphany Service</b>	10:00am 11:30am 11:45am 7:00 pm	Epiphany Worship Service— Rev. Dr. Cody J. Sanders, Guest Preacher, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, <i>Sanctuary</i> Welcoming Church Forum w/ First Baptist Church Youth Committee Meeting Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, January 9th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i>
Tuesday, January 10th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday, January 11th	7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, January 12th	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, January 15th <b>Martin Luther King Day Service</b>	8:15 am 10:00am 11:30am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>1154 Reception</i>