



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 14, 2018
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Commemoration of Blessed Martin Luther King, Jr.

Welcome to our worship service.

Please join us for refreshments and time for fellowship immediately following the service.

“As Martin ended, there was the awed silence that is the greatest tribute an orator can be paid. And then a tremendous crash of sound as two hundred and fifty thousand people shouted in ecstatic accord with his words. The feeling that they had of oneness and unity was complete. They kept on shouting in one thunderous voice, and for that brief moment the Kingdom of God seemed to have come on earth.”

- from My Life With Martin Luther King, Jr. by Coretta Scott King, pg. 240

PRELUDE

Pastorale
Lefebure-Wely

GATHERING SONG *(see insert)*

Christ Be Our Light
Vs 1-3

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

OPENING PRAYER

A Prayer by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We

often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Official hymn of the NAACP

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Sunday School after Time for Children

ANTHEM

Blessed Assurance
Phoebe P. Knapp arr. Tracey Craig McKibben
Valerie Becker - piano

READING

Old Testament Lesson1 Samuel 3:1-1

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to God under Eli. The word of God was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of God, where the ark of God was. Then God called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. God called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know God, and the word of God had not yet been revealed to him. God called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that God was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if the voice calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, God, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now God came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Then God said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

Gospel John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to

him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Beloved of God! You are the Ruler of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you,* you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Human One.'

HYMN (*see insert*)

I Have a Dream

SERMON

"God Is Still Calling" Rev. Jim Mitulski

HYMN (*see insert*)

Christ Be Our Light
Vs. 4-5

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Concerns and Celebrations

*Prayers for Our Friends and Families, Our Church, Our Community, and the World.
Lord's Prayer (please pray whatever form is familiar to you; many choose to pray Our Father,
Our Mother, Our Father and Mother, Our Creator, or Our Maker, or Father/Mother
God...debts/debtors or trespasses/those who trespass...)*

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

Precious Lord
Thomas A. Dorsey(1899 - 1993)

***Epiphany Doxology**

*As they offered gifts more rare
At that manger rude and bare
So may we with holy joy
Pure and free from sin's alloy.
All our costliest treasures bring
Christ, to thee, and praises sing.*

Prayer of Dedication

CLOSING HYMN #164 (*Black, New Century*)

Arise Your Light is Come

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Joyous Postlude
Mallard

Worship Assistants: Mike Normile

Deacons: Jane Clayton-Matthews, Kirby Salerno

Altar Guild: Laura Cullen

Ushers: David Libby, Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Scott Lively

Flowers: Mary Lou Hughes

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Cara Eaton Herzog and Robert Herzog by Mi Herzog.*

Covenant

We strive to be a joyful, welcoming Christian Community.

We seek to be faithful in a world torn by suffering, injustice, oppression, and war.

We are inspired by God, Christ's Ministry, and the examples of other faithful people.

We join together in worship and song, fellowship, study, and mission to embrace the risks and challenges of continuing Christ's ministry

We struggle to live out our faith in the world by furthering justice and peace, witnessing to the truth, and proclaiming God's love and mercy for all people.

Open and Affirming Statement

As a covenant community we are committed to the belief that all people are created equal before God.

In affirmation of the inclusive love of Christ Jesus, we welcome persons of any race, gender, age, sexual orientation, ability and economic circumstance to full participation in our community life and ministry.

We strive to reflect these beliefs in the language and content of our worship and in our lives together.

(This statement adopted in 2000, reflects the welcome of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their friends and families.)

Liturgy Notes: The opening hymn “Lift Every Voice and Sing” is often sung at public assemblies and in churches celebrating racial equality. It is the official anthem of the NAACP. The opening prayer was written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and used first at worship services at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA.

The Hymn “I Have A Dream” is based on Dr. King’s famous “I have a Dream” speech and is found in several hymnals. Here are the notes from the United Methodist Church web page about the text and tune: Words by F. Richard Garland, 2013 Music: tune, HIXON, by Mark A. Miller, 2003

This new text by F. Richard Garland was composed in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech delivered at the March on Washington in 1963. The author writes of this text, “The Dream that King articulated resonated deeply and changed America profoundly, yet, sadly, it feels like, after so many years of progress, we are at risk of stepping backward. This text has political overtones, but then what King said that day did too.”

The tune, originally composed as “All My Days” (Worship & Song, no. 3011) is by Mark Miller, who teaches sacred music and worship at both Drew University and Yale University. He is also the Minister of Music at Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey. Between 2002 and 2007, he was Director of Contemporary Worship at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York; and from 1999 to 2001, he was Music Associate and Assistant Organist of The Riverside Church in New York City. Mark is well known throughout the United Methodist Church as a composer, worship leader, teacher and performer of sacred music.

Further Notes: In the focus groups some people have asked why we print the scriptures in the bulletin sometimes when we have pew bibles and hymnals. In the United Church of Christ we have a commitment to using inclusive language which is more recent than the printed books in our pews. For group worship we use bible readings that reflect this commitment, though many of us use older translations in for study and devotional use. In our hymn selections, we are aiming, during the interim period at least, to do blended worship, drawing from the older Red Pilgrim hymnal (which we used a lot during Christmas), the black New Century Hymn books, and also using at least one or two newer things in each service which is what you will find on the inserts. We hope by blending to preserve the best of our past and to continue to refresh our worship with contemporary resources as well. Many churches no longer use hymn books, but they are a valued touchstone. We often print words and music (not just words) because we have so many musicians in our congregation and they enrich all of our experience by having access to the musical notations.

Welcome to all who are new or here for the first time! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please email Rev. Jim at revjim@needhamucc.org, Rev Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org or call the office at 781-444-2510 to set up a conversation.

For updates on church life, our family ministries, Christian Education and Youth Ministries follow us at: **@NeedhamUCC on Instagram**

Congregational Church of Needham UCC on Facebook

@needhamucc on Twitter www.needhamucc.org

Please silence your cell phone before attending the service. You can Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here. Feel free to Tweet, Snapchat, or Instagram during the service. If you would like or need a hearing device an usher will be able to assist you. Children's Childcare is offered for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Nursery located downstairs during the service.

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 Evening hours are also available by appointment.

*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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Associate Minister—The Rev. Heike Werder
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781-444-2510, ext. 105

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781-444-2510, ext. 104

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Housekeeper—Sanira Alchaar

Church Administrator—Danielle Jurdan
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Handyman—Bill Donovan

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

January 14, 2018

TODAY: Come to an Adult Educational session on the history, point, and purpose of taking a “Pilgrimage” on **January 14, 2018 at 11:30** after church. This session is offered as the start of inviting you to go on a virtual pilgrimage to Spain walking the “Way of St. James”, the Camino De Santiago for the seasons of Epiphany and Lent. You will need for this pilgrimage a fitness tracker, sneakers, and the willingness to read and contemplate given spiritual readings each week. Intrigued? Then check out this event. Lunch will be available for the usual fee.

The Transition Team wishes to acknowledge all who have signed up or already participated in the Small Group Focus Sessions. We have had a very strong turnout and are very grateful for the time and thoughtful feedback that people have provided. These guided discussions will provide critical input and feedback essential to the Transition Team in preparing an accurate Church Profile that will inform and support the Search Committee work. This is an important part of the process for selecting our next settled senior minister.

The remaining meeting is: *Wednesday, January 17, 7pm at the Conroy’s house*, 716 Webster Street. We have a few spots left, so please see a Transition Team member if you would like to attend, and have not PREVIOUSLY signed up.

We are working at an ambitious pace to be able to complete the church profile, and turn the work over to the Search Team in mid-February. We want to sincerely thank everyone who has supported and participated in this process, whether it was answering a lengthy survey, attending a feedback meeting at the height of the Holiday Season, or coming out in the icy cold to participate in the Focus group meetings. Your help has been invaluable.

After the Focus meetings have concluded, we will be answering the question, “Who is our neighbor?” This will be done by interviewing leaders in our community, which will include the Housing Authority, Superintendent of Schools and a Selectman. These meetings will help us learn how our church is viewed in the community and more importantly how we can be more supportive and helpful.

As always, please e-mail us at transitionteam@needhamucc.org if you have questions.

The Transition Team: Deb Abraham, Alan Clayton-Matthews, Diana Conroy, Claudia Darmofal, Frank Luppino, Carl Madsen, Barbra Morton, Heather Salerno, Reverend Jim Mitulski

NEEDHAM UCC FAMILY COOKBOOK: Submit Your Recipes Now! Our Youth Groups will be compiling recipes through January for a new Congregational Church of Needham cookbook! You are invited to contribute your favorite recipe to be included. You can email the recipe to youth@needhamucc.org or bring a printed copy and put it in Maddie's mailbox in the copy room! Additionally, if you'd like to share one or two sentences on a memory related to your recipe we will include that as well! Recipes will be collected through January 31. The cookbooks will be released in time for preparing your Easter dinner!

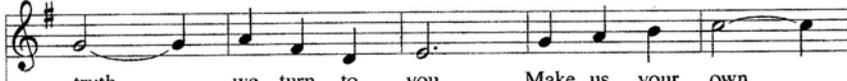
Sunday January 14th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Ed– Pilgrimage, <i>Linden Hall</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Reception Room</i>
Monday January 15th		<i>Office Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>
Wednesday January 17th	7:00 pm	Transition Focus Group, <i>Conroy's House</i>
Sunday January 21st	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting Hearing, <i>Linden Hall</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday January 22nd	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Wednesday January 24th	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Sunday January 28th	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting & Luncheon, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group

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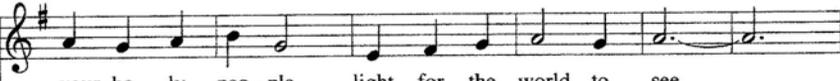
Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



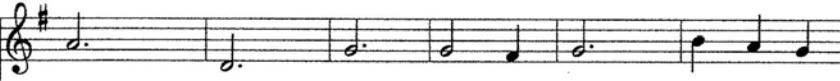
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
 to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Refrain


Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music School Settlement in New York.

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.
 J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

I Have a Dream

In commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" address.



1. "I have a dream!" From proph-et's word; an
2. But when that dream is still de - ferred and
3. The dream may change from age to age, the
4. This dream in - volves a sa - cred trust: to
5. We will not quit, nor cede the past. We'll



an - cient truth that must be heard; a land that's filled with
em - pires claim to be pre - ferred, e - qual - i - ty and
right to vote, a liv - ing wage, a safe walk home, the
put a - way all that's un - just, to live the words that
dream 'til all are free at last. Let jus - tice roll, a



faith - ful - ness; where jus - tice reigns in right - eous - ness, where
jus - tice wane, then we are called to dream a - gain, then
dig - ni - ty of broth - er - hood and liv - ing free, of
we pro - fess, to pledge our - selves to right - eous - ness, to
might - y stream. Let mer - cy rise, ful - fill the dream, let



jus - tice reigns in right - eous - ness! ____
we are called to dream a - gain. ____
broth - er - hood and liv - ing free. ____
pledge our - selves to right - eous - ness. ____
mer - cy rise, ful -



fill the dream!

(For accompaniment, see "All My Days," *Worship & Song*, no. 3011)

WORDS: F. Richard Garland
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

HIXON
88.88

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Music Source: *Worship & Song* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011)

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Warrant for Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2018

The Annual Meeting of The Congregational Church of Needham will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10am worship service on Sunday, January 28, at 11:30am. Childcare will be provided while the meeting is held.

As is customary in preparation for the Annual Meeting, an informational hearing will be held following the worship service on Sunday, January 21, in Linden Hall. Please attend the hearing to learn more about the Annual Report and to ask questions about articles to be addressed at the Annual Meeting.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the Narthex on January 21 at the 10am worship service. Please help yourself to a copy of these documents in preparation for the meeting. The warrant of articles for the meeting is as follows:

Warrant

Article I - To receive and act on reports of the Standing Committees, Special Committees and Officers of the Church.

Article II - To elect Officers and Committees for the Church Year 2018.

Article III - To adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

Article IV: To authorize the Board to re-finance the existing bridge loan prior to its maturation in June of 2019 and obtain a new loan, secured by church property, in an amount no greater than \$1,500,000, with proceeds of the new loan to pay off the existing bridge loan and pay any broker fees associated with the Lease of the 1180 Building; the remainder going to the Capital Campaign fund for improvements to the main church building at 1154 Great Plain Avenue

Article V: To amend the by-laws of the Church