



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany Congregational Meeting Sunday January 28, 2018

Welcome to our worship service.

This Sunday, our Annual Meeting will immediately follow Worship. Everyone is invited to join us for our luncheon following the meeting.

The Low Road

What can they do to you?
Whatever they want..

They can set you up, bust you,
they can break your fingers,
burn your brain with electricity,
blur you with drugs till you
can't walk, can't remember.
they can take away your children,
wall up your lover;
they can do anything you can't stop them doing.

How can you stop them?
Alone you can fight, you can refuse.
You can take whatever revenge you can
But they roll right over you.
But two people fighting back to back
can cut through a mob
a snake-dancing fire
can break a cordon,
termites can bring down a mansion

Two people can keep each other sane
can give support, conviction,
love, massage, hope, sex.

Three people are a delegation
a cell, a wedge.

With four you can play games
and start a collective.

With six you can rent a whole house
have pie for dinner with no seconds
and make your own music.

Thirteen makes a circle,
a hundred fill a hall.
A thousand have solidarity
and your own newsletter;
ten thousand community
and your own papers;
a hundred thousand,
a network of communities;
a million our own world.

It goes one at a time.
It starts when you care to act.
It starts when you do it again
after they say no.
It starts when you say we
and know who you mean;
and each day you mean
one more.

- Marge Piercy

PRELUDE

Prelude
Cesar Franck (1822 - 1890)

GATHERING SONG (*see insert*)

Christ Be Our Light (vs. 1-3)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, to Whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from Whom no secrets are hidden:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #386 (*Black, New Century*) **The Church's One Foundation**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Sunday School after Time for Children

ANTHEM

Deep River
Henry T. Burleigh(1866 - 1949)

READING

Gospel Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a person with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

HYMN (*see insert*)

Here I Am, Lord

SERMON

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

Praise the Lord
G.F. Handel(1685 - 1759)

***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

Renewal of Church 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.

Renewal of 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.)

Prayer Blessing of Congregational Meeting

We pray that this meeting is successful, productive, and blessed. Holy Spirit guide us during our discussions. Broaden our imaginations, deepen our faith, enlarge our hope. Give us wisdom concerning the issues that we face. God, we give You the glory for what we accomplish in Jesus name, and in your many names. Amen.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (vs. 1-3) #547 (Black, New Century)

**Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
was blind but now I see.**

**T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come;
T'is grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home,**

*In five minutes we will reconvene for our Annual Meeting for business.
Please re-seat yourselves near the front*

After business has concluded form a circle and we will sing.

Amazing Grace vs. 5 #547 (*Black, New Century*)

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

Praise God, Praise God, Praise God, Praise God....

BENEDICTION

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for lunch.

Worship Assistant: Hiroko Hardebeck
Deacons: Paul Brown, Rick Devereux
Altar Guild: Jean Veigas
Ushers: Craig Morrison, Valerie Kistler, Eric Slosser
Flowers: Mary Lou Hughes
Flower Delivery: Joann Seiden

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Robert R. Andrews III by Jean Andrews and his loving family.*

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

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
RevJim@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister—The Rev. Heike Werder
RevHeike@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries—Madelyn Downer
Youth@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Organist/Accompanist—Sangyoung Kim

Housekeeper—Sanira Alchaar

Church Administrator—Danielle Jurdan
Office@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant & Bookkeeper—Cindy Sullivan
Office2@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Music Director—Valerie Becker
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Handyman—Bill Donovan

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

January 28, 2018

The Transition Team wishes to acknowledge all who 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.

Now that 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 Lupino, 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!

Guatemala Delegation Send-Off, Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 pm, Johnson's home (505 Great Plain Ave). Please join us for this brief send-off of the church's 61st delegation to Guatemala! Come hear about the delegation's planned activities in Guatemala City and the village, travelers' hopes, and well-wishes by family and friends. Delegation travelers include Co-leaders Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder, Jennifer Connors, Maria Libbey, Chloè Misiak, Jerry Durbin, Lucienne Ronco, Nick and Anthony Rhind, Natalie Hallagan, and Lexie Chu, as well as optometrist Scott Pike and wife Joene from Oregon. We ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers that this will be meaningful and safe trip for all and a blessing to our partnership. (And save the date for the Delegation Reportback: March 11, 11:30 am, Linden Hall).

JUSTICE AND WITNESS: We are invited to join friends from Old Cambridge Baptist Church and other faith communities at this. Please join us in the upcoming Prayer Vigil at the ICE De-

tention Center in Boston. At these vigils we gather to show our support of and solidarity with those detained by ICE in Boston, to remind them that they are not forgotten. At the same time, we bear witness to the violence that ICE perpetuates: separating families, removing parents in from of their children's eyes, detaining people without access to the basic legal services they need to support themselves, and countless other atrocities. And we recommit ourselves to taking meaningful action for justice.

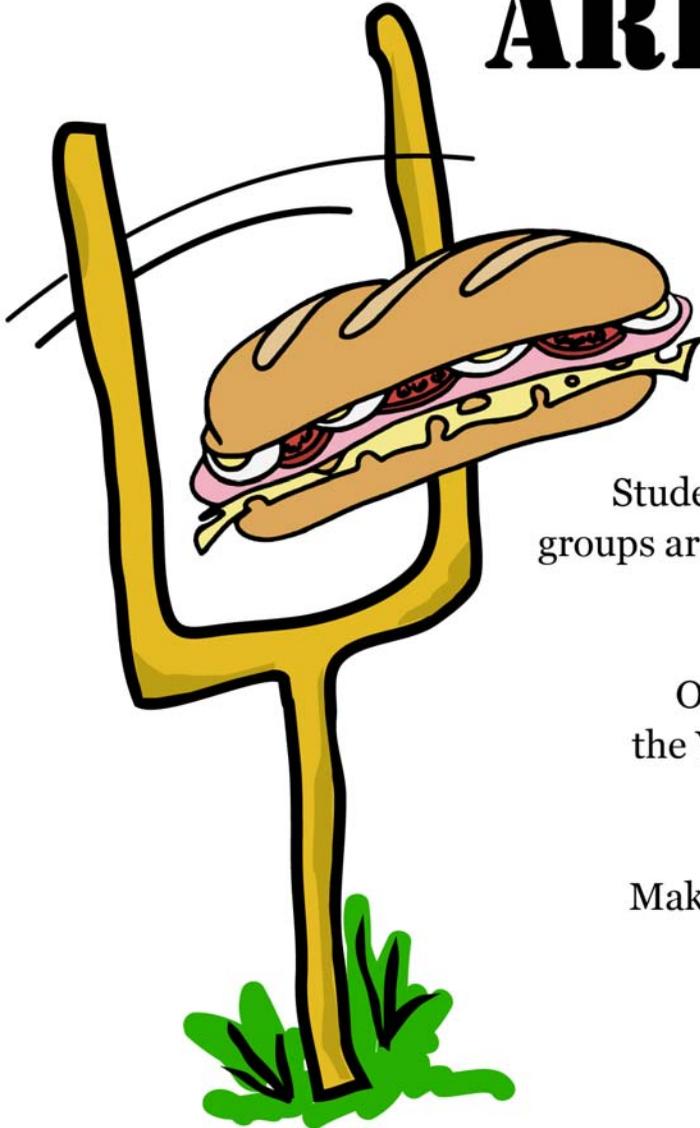
Let's Talk, Let's Listen- About Race in Boston - Tuesday, January 30, at 7 p.m. at First Parish Unitarian. In December the Boston Globe did a 7 part series SPOTLIGHT serials called **BOSTON. RACISM. IMAGE. REALITY.**

The Three Downtown Protestant Churches (First Parish UU, First Baptist and The Congregational Church UCC) are hosting a once a month - last Tuesday of each month- series of conversations of the articles. The first one takes place on **Tuesday, January 30, at 7 p.m.** at First Parish Unitarian 23 Dedham Ave, right across from the Common. ALL are welcome. Read the first three articles in the series [tps://apps.bostonglobe.com/spotlight/boston-racism-image-reality/series/image/](https://apps.bostonglobe.com/spotlight/boston-racism-image-reality/series/image/) 'Not **everything** that is faced **can be changed**, but nothing **can be changed** until it is faced.'-James Baldwin.

JOIN THE FRIENDLY CHIMERS as we begin rehearsing for Easter. No prior experience is needed (& you only need to learn 2 notes) except a love of making music with others, being inspired and inspiring others with sacred music & a commitment to rehearsing after church from 11:30-12:15, beginning on Feb 11. For more information: Joanne Seiden (jseiden@basiclink.com; 781-449-6535). COME & SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE & HOW MUCH FUN IT IS!

Sunday January 28th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting & Luncheon, <i>Sanctuary</i> Jr & Sr. High Youth Group to Inter-racial Dialogue Potluck Dinner at First Parish UU, Needham
Monday January 29th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Thursday February 1st	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>Linden Hall</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday February 3rd	8:30 am	Board and Deacon Retreat
Sunday February 4th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Confirmation Parent Meeting, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship-Blessing of Deacons, <i>Sanctuary</i> Super Bowl Subs Pick Up (9-1) Rev. Heike– Walk in a Relaxed Way, <i>Chapel</i> Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday February 5th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Tuesday February 6th	6:00 pm	Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thursday February 8th	7:30 pm	Meditation Book Group, <i>Library</i>
Sunday February 11th	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Fellowship Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship-Blessing of Guatemala Travelers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Rev. Jim– Adult Ed School Board Report, <i>Linden Hall</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Reception Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group

SUPER BOWL SUBS ARE BACK!



Students in our youth ministries groups are currently taking orders for the annual sub sale!

Order forms are available on the Youth bulletin board by the office/copy room.

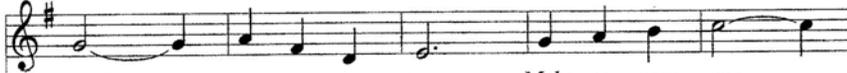
Make sure you order one of our delicious subs or some of Maddie's Famous Chili!

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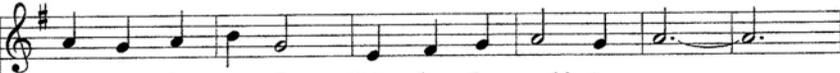
Christ, Be Our Light



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



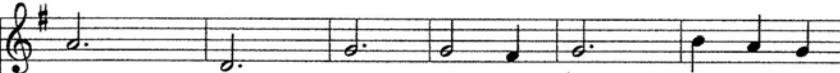
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



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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Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a- lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide, till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

1.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?

I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will speak my word to them.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
I will give my life to them.

2.

Refrain (Harmony)

Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.

WORDS: Dan Schutte, 1981 (Is. 6:8)

MUSIC: Dan Schutte, 1981; adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988

HERE I AM, LORD
77.74 D with Refrain

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

CALLED TO GOD'S MISSION, *see further:*

97 For the Fruits of This Creation

650 Give Me the Faith Which Can Remove