



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

**January 7, 2018
The Feast of the Epiphany
Service of Holy Communion**

Welcome to our worship service.

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

A Silent Promise

Jay Emerson Johnson

Light comes back
as it always does
just before Christmas Day
like finding a treasured keepsake
forgotten in the attic recesses
and I start to think about Hoovering up
brittle evergreen needles,
fingering the stubborn ones
out from a wooly carpet's fibers.

Light comes back slowly
tracing an ancient arc
across the winter sky
and I kneel on the hardwood
straining to scoop up
a stray ornament
from a dusty corner
just out of reach
with sunlight
dappling my vision.

Light comes back
with a promise
silent as the stars—
this simple, tender flesh
covering our hands
wrinkling our knees
layering our faces
shall be seen
revealed as a divine gift
for this world
indeed, an epiphany.

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG (*see insert*)

Christ Be Our Light (Vs 1-3)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CALL TO WORSHIP

Light! Light, light and more light!
Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem,
wise men came from the East, saying:
Where is he who is born king of the Jews?

**For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.**

The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #143 (*Red, Pilgrim*)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

OPENING PRAYER

O God, by the leading of a star. You manifest the Word of Life to the peoples of the earth: lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

ANTHEM

READING

Gospel Matthew 2:1-15

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we ob-

served his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd* my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

HYMN (*see insert*)

Christ Be Our Light (*Vs 4-5*)

SERMON

Rev. Jim Mitulski

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

***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

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

EVERYONE is welcome to receive the Bread and Cup. You don't need to be a member of this church or any church. Come forward at the direction of the usher. Pick up a piece of gluten-free bread,, and dip it in the cup. If you are not sure what to do, ask, and we are glad to explain. The cup contains grape juice.

Children of any age may receive if their parents are comfortable, or you may bring them forward and we will give them a simple blessing. Everyone is welcome, without exception. If you would like communion brought to you, let the usher know and we are happy to bring it to you in your seat.

Communion Music

(You are welcome to sing these hymns during communion)

For Everyone Born *(see insert)*

Hallelujah, we sing your praises *(see insert)*

Communion Prayer

Holy, gracious, God,

Here at this table your promise of life is made tangible.

We have rested in the depth of your love;

We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence;

We accept you into our bodies, into our lives.

Together, at this table, you have offered us life.

Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer.

And we give you thanks. Amen

CLOSING HYMN #160 *(Black, New Century)*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Worship Assistants: Isabell Wells

Deacons: Jane Clayton-Matthews, Rick Devereux

Communion Servers: Paul Brown, Sue Cotton, Kirby Salerno

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy, Jane Clayton-Matthews

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

Flowers: Mary Lou Hughes

Flower Delivery: Jean Veigas

The flowers on the alter are given to the glory of god and in loving memory of Martin and Gladys Edman on their 88th wedding anniversary by Mary Lou Edman Hughes.

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.)

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
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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 7, 2018

The Transition Team wishes to acknowledge all who have participated in and signed up to participate in the Small Group Focus Sessions. 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 your chance to be an important part of this process and share with us what you are looking for in our next settled senior minister.

The meetings are:

TODAY church library, 11:30am tailored to families with young children, Childcare provided

TODAY church chapel, 11:30am

TODAY Mollerus's house, 11:30am 139 Brookline Street, Needham

Thursday, January 11 Conroy's house, 7pm 716 Webster Street, Needham

Wednesday, January 17, Abraham's house, 7pm 57 Colonial Road, Needham

Please contact a member of the Transition Team, or email transitionteam@needhamucc.org to sign up for either the 1/11 meeting or the 1/17 meeting. If you would like to attend a meeting today, and HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY signed up, please see a Claudia Darmofal of the Transition to see if there is space available in one of today's meetings.

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. 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!

Reduced Prices for Guatemala Calendars! Today is the last Sunday to purchase a calendar to benefit our sister village of Santa Maria Tzeja. Prices have been reduced to \$18 per calendar, or \$30 for two. Available at the Guatemala table in Fellowship Hall after worship today.

Guatemala Partner-Family Letters DUE TODAY! Your partner family in the village eagerly awaits your letter, so if you haven't already written and e-mailed your letter to David Johnson, please do it TODAY. Time is getting short to get them translated and packed up for the February delegation to hand deliver. Dave's e-mail: davebjohnson77@gmail.com. (Scholarship donors should likewise send their letters for their students to Dave.) Thank you.

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.

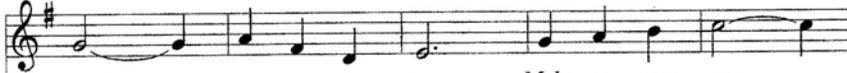
Sunday January 7th	8:30 am 10:00 am 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday January 8th	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday January 9th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thursday January 11th	7:30 pm	Meditation Book Club, <i>Library</i>
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>
Saturday January 20th	8:30 am	Deacon & Board Retreat
Sunday January 21st	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Men’s Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting Hearing, <i>Linden Hall</i>

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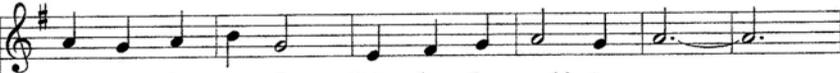
Christ, Be Our Light



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



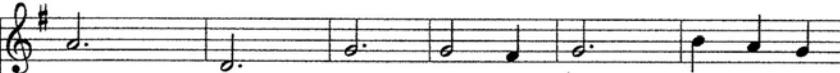
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



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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For Everyone Born

E A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E A2 B sus4 B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F#m7 E/G# A2 B sus4

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child, in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E B sus4

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver -
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's
 for young and for old, the right to be -
 for just and un - just, a new way to
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be

Refrain

E Bsus4 B E E/G#

head.
fair.
long.
live.
free.

And God will de-light when we are cre-

A2 Bsus4 E E/G# A2 Bsus4 B

a-tors of jus-tice and joy, com-pas-sion and peace: yes,

C#m7 E/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,

Bsus4 B E Bsus4 B *last time*
E

jus-tice and joy.

142 Hallelujah, we sing your praises

South African Freedom Song

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad -
 Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, Di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe -

ness! Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prai - ses! All our hearts are filled with glad - ness!
 la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, Di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.

1 Christ the Lord to us said: "I am wine, I am bread, I am
 2 Je - sus says to us still: "All who do the Lord's will, all who
 3 Now He sends us all out strong in faith, free of doubt, strong in
 Ke Mo - re - na Je - so, Ya re du - me - let - seng, Ya re

1 wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger!"
 2 do the Lord's will are my sis - ters and my bro - thers."
 3 faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel!
 du - me - let - seng Ho tsa - mai - sa e - van - ge - di.