



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 8, 2017

The Feast of the Epiphany

*Childcare for infants, toddlers, & preschoolers is available in the preschool room downstairs during the service.
After Children's Time, students are dismissed to their classrooms for Bible Village.*

PRELUDE

Variations on God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Myron J. Roberts

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your Beloved 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.

***OPENING HYMN #143 (Red, Pilgrim Hymnal)**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children

CHILDREN'S HYMN #161 (Black, New Century Hymnal)

Amen, Amen
(Selected verses sung by choir)

ANTHEM

Arise, Shine; for Your Light Has Come
Mark Bender

SELECTION OF READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-4a

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

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but God will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and monarchs to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around.

Matthew 2:1-18

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise ones from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed 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 ones 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 God 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 fulfil what had been spoken by God through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my child.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise ones, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise ones. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

HYMN # 159 (Black, New Century Hymnal)

As with Gladness Those of Old

SERMON

"Wise Fools"

The Rev. Dr. Cody J. Sanders, Pastor, Old Cambridge Baptist Church

HYMN # 160 (Black, New Century Hymnal)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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

How Lovely are the Messengers
Felix Mendelssohn - Bartholdy

**Doxology for Epiphany Season*

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger plain and bare,
So may we with holy, pure and free from sin's alloy.
All our costliest treasure's bring, Christ, to you, from whom they spring. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN # 158 (Black, New Century Hymnal)**

O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

Congregational Response

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
G.F. Handel arranged by Fred Bock

**You are invited to stand*

Right after the postlude meet us outside in the courtyard, weather permitting, for the Dedication of the new Accessibility Ramp, or in the Narthex if the weather is forbidding.

Please join us in Linden Hall for the Education Hour with Dr. Cody following the ramp dedication.

Thank you Denice Koljonen and David Darmofal for their wonderful gifts of music this morning.

Notes on the Liturgy for Epiphany

During January we are using a stanza from William Dix's hymn based on the Epiphany gospel at the presentation of the offering. The entire text may be found at Hymn 159 in the New Century Hymnal.

Worship Assistant: Craig Morrison

Deacons: Joanne Seiden, Claudia Darmofal

Altar Guild: Laura Cullen

Ushers: Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser, David Libby

Flowers: Mary Lou Hughes

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

*The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Tina Scharback by her family:
Josh, Alecia, Noah, Flora and Eve Scharback, and Jessa, Greg, Hailey and Mackenzie Huff.*

- Welcome to all who are here for the first time.
- Please silence your cell phone before attending the service.
- Please Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here.
- You can Tweet or Instagram during the service.
- Please ask an usher if you would like or need a hearing device.

Attendance and Offerings

1/1/2017 Worship Attendance= 64 people *1/1/2017 Collection = \$117

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510
or office@needhamucc.org to find out how you can give electronically.

December Pledges donated electronically \$10,127.50

* *Collection & Pledge amount does not include additional pledges received electronically.*

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

Altar Flowers

There is an opportunity on January 22nd to provide altar flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion. Please contact Debbie Wentworth at bmwfac@comcast.net or the church office for more information. The Flower Committee will be pleased to assist you.

Read "Jesus and the Disinherited" with the Faith Circle Book Group! Thursday's at 10:30am

For our winter read we will be reading two books! They are both great reads and good discussion books. The first book is **Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman**. The second book is **Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl**. We will begin meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 10:30am. For our first meeting, please read the Foreword and Chapter 1 in Thurman's book. Copies of the book are available for anyone who needs them (Jesus and the Disinherited--\$8.50 and Man's Search for Meaning --\$9.00). Please email Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net if you would like to get a book. Include which book and how many copies please. A complete syllabus will be available in the January & February FOCUS.

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. You have plenty of time to read it even if you have never read a graphic novel. Be adventurous! Take a risk!

Chancel Choir

Please come sing with us! Chancel choir rehearsals for the month of January and February will be at 8:30 on Sunday morning in the sanctuary. We would love to have you be part of our choir!

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

Junior High Youth Group: Most Sundays from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. We meet for discussion, activities, and group games. Our regular meetings are on hiatus until after the pageant - join us at the all youth events and Christmas pageant!

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>

CALENDAR January 8—JANUARY 29

Sunday, January 8th Epiphany Service	8:30 am 10:00am 11:30am 11:45am 7:00 pm	Choir Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Epiphany Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Welcoming Church Forum w/ First Baptist Church Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Committee Meeting Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, January 9th	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</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	CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Sunday, January 15th Martin Luther King Day Service	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00am 11:30am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Choir Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>
Monday, January 16th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i>
Thursday, January 19th	10:30 am 6:00 pm	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i> Holy Homework, <i>Youth Room</i>
Sunday, January 22nd	10:00 am 11:30 am	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting Hearing, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>
Monday, January 23rd	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i>
Tuesday, January 24th	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting
Thursday, January 26th	10:30am	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception Room</i>
Sunday, January 29th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm	Choir Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting, <i>Sanctuary</i> Annual Meeting Luncheon, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>