



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 22, 2017 10:00am
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Protestant Reformation at 500
Always Reforming, Evolving, Changing

Welcome to our worship service.

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

PRELUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

WELCOME SONG

(see insert)

Welcome

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Worship *(inspired by Psalm 150)*

Praise God! Praise God in this house of prayer;
Give praise throughout the mighty universe.
Praise God for the saving deeds of Christ;
Give praise for such exceptional love.
Praise God with the blast of trumpets;
Give praise with guitar and keyboard.
Praise God with timbrel and dance;
Give praise with violin and flute.
Praise God with drums and cymbals;
Give praise with thundering organ.
Let everything that draws breath, praise God;
Praise, yes praise our wonderful God!

OPENING HYMN

(see insert)

Built on a Rock

ANTHEM

Misty Morning
Carl J. Nygard Jr.
Shepherd's Staff Choir

TIME FOR CHILDREN

(Children leave for Christian Education after Time for Children)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

Awesome God

**Our god is an awesome God, who reigns from heaven above
in wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God.**

Worship in Word and Song

"In Case of Fire"
Bobby Jo Valentine

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 We the Name of the Lord
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

* *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

CLOSING HYMN

(see insert)

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sinfonia 6

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

On Sunday November 5th we will be celebrating All Saints Day. We welcome and invite you to bring a photo or memento of a loved one who has passed to the Worship Service. You are also welcome to bring a photo of a person who is a Saint to you, a role model from history or in your personal life.

Worship Assistant: Julia Dunlavey

Deacons: Sue Cotton, Dibby Moder

Ushers: Craig Morrison, Valerie Kistler, Rob Blauvelt

Flowers: Jane Brand

Flower Delivery: Jean Veigas

In honor of her birthday, the flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frida Boyd by her family.

Notes on this week's Liturgy Our opening and closing organ hymns are classic hymns of the reformation, one from Denmark., and one from Germany, on classic Lutheran themes, in anticipation of next Sunday's culminating service. Rev. Heike's classes after church these next two weeks are places to explore the more orthodox theology of our reformed heritage. One strand of the United Church of Christ traces itself to Martin Luther and John Calvin, though Luther's influence in particular is more in evidence in the UCC churches of the Midwest, and rarely in New England. The United Church of Christ is in a covenant relationship with four reformation heritage denominations recognizing each other's sacraments and ordination: The Reformed Church in America, The Presbyterian Church USA, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the largest Lutheran Church). The covenant in recent years has become strained because of the RCA's refusal to affirm the ministry of LGBT people, thus breaking the covenant in regard to recognition of ministry.

For more information about our guest artist go to www.bobbyjovalentine.com

The Opening prayer is based on Psalm 150 by Bruce Prewer and is from Canadian Mennonite Worship Professor Christine Longhurst's website

Re Worship https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/03/call-to-worship-psalm-150_26.html

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
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Music Director—Valerie Becker
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Handyman—Bill Donovan

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

October 22, 2017

On Sunday November 5th we will be celebrating All Saints Day. We welcome and invite you to bring a photo or memento of a loved one who has passed to the Worship Service.

GUATEMALA CONCERT/Silent Auction TODAY! 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

Church Sanctuary. BUY YOUR TICKETS (\$15/person) - at Coffee Hour today or AT THE DOOR. Don't miss this double musical treat, featuring performances by Libana (a 'world class', 6-person women's ensemble) and our own renowned pianist Soomi Lee, who is donating her performance in honor of the 30th anniversary of our partnership with Santa María Tzejá! Come early to start bidding on the Silent Auction items, which will continue during Intermission, accompanied by complimentary refreshments. Proceeds will support education and scholarships in SMT.

Adult Education Class with Rev. Heike Werder On October 31, 2017 the world celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Reformation brought sweeping changes to European and American culture and society then and still. It was a forerunner of democratic movements, including the creation of the United States. And in many ways, Reformation is ongoing today. Together we will explore some of the aspects of the Reformation. Please join me a 3-part Adult Ed program where we will use (partially) the UCC's study guide called "500" and explore together the basics of the Reformation. A copy for sale is on our "Bookstore."

October 22, 2017 – 95 Thesis and other issues lifted up by Martin Luther

October 29, 2017 – The Importance of the Reformation

We will gather in Linden Hall. Lunch will be offered for a small fee. All are welcome!

The Survey is Coming! The Survey is Coming! The Transition Team is off and running. We have an ambitious plan to complete our Church Profile and be ready to shift to the Search Team part of this process by February. We can only accomplish this with your help! We will be sending out a survey within the next few weeks to help us answer the questions "Who are we Now?", "Who is our Neighbor?", and "Who is God Calling us to be?" Through the work of answering those questions, we will come up with our unique Church Profile. We will have a table set up at the Fellowship hour soon to be available to answer questions.

Please fill out the survey that you receive (all members, not just households) and watch for large and small meetings to attend to both obtain information and give your input. Your first opportunity to attend these meetings comes on **October 29th at 9am and again at 11:30am**. We recognize that many of the congregation are crushingly busy but respectfully ask that you make

these two requests a priority. We are aiming for 100% participation. We will be scheduling more meetings so please watch the bulletin and Friday emails for more dates.

Your transition team consists of: Barbra Morton, Claudia Darmofal, Carl Madsen, Deborah Abraham, Diana Conroy, Heather Salerno, and Alan Clayton-Matthews. Our Interim Senior Minister Jim Mitulski is working with us on this important job.

Mindfulness Meditation October 22nd at 11:30am. The Mindfulness Practice Group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Sunday's for Mindfulness Meditation in the Chapel.

Dear Once-in-a-While-Choir Singers (and wanna-be's) You are officially invited to participate on Sunday November 19th in the singing of a song called, "You Will Be Found", from the Broadway musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*.

We will rehearse on Sunday, October 22nd and 29th at 11:30, while the kids are in their choir practice time, up to 12:15. This way, the choir kids who want to sing with us can either join in at 11:30 or at noon, depending upon which choir they sing with.

Sunday, October 22 Rehearsal in the Sanctuary, from 11:30 to 12:15

Sunday, October 29 Rehearsal in the Chapel, from 11:30 to 12:15

Sunday, November 19 Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall from 9 to 9:45

You are invited to attend both rehearsals in October, but if you are only able to attend one of the two, that's fine. We just need that full 45 minutes on Sunday the 19th of November as this piece is not one that can be prepared in 10 minutes. I also have the music available digitally and through a music file. I will also send individual rehearsal parts for your use, should you desire.

This is a very powerful song, and we would love to have you join in the musical moments of praise. I hope you will say, (and sing) "YES!"

If you have any questions, please call 781-540-9113 or email at cicihunt@gmail.com.

Justice and Witness - This is the name of a new team that is forming for people involved in various kinds of social justice or social action activities. It corresponds to a program area of our denomination, the United Church of Christ. <http://www.ucc.org/jwm>. Speak to Rev. Jim Mitulski if you are interested in exploring this.

Upcoming Events

The Needham Human Rights Speaker Series

**Second Forum: Immigration Detainers and Why We Need the Safe Communities Act
October 22, 2-4 PM, Needham Public Library**

A panel of experts will discuss: The relationship of ICE and police in Massachusetts, the human and financial costs of immigration detention, why we need the Safe Communities Act and how to get involved.

Accompaniment on the Journey: Partnership with Immigrants in the Face of Unjust Laws
Sharing and Conversation with Gaby Chavez & Nestor Pimienta, Directors of SLIC Refugee Community, part of the Greater Boston Sanctuary and Solidarity Network
October 25th, 7:30-9:00 pm, First Parish in Needham Sanctuary
23 Dedham Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

Are you curious about how your faith community can partner with and support our immigrant neighbors and communities under threat from unjust laws? All are welcome to meet Gaby Chavez and Nester Pimienta, recent graduates of Harvard Divinity School and instrumental organizers in Greater Boston. Pimienta and Chavez will share with us what other communities are doing and how they brought ideas into reality.

Failure of Justice: The Wrongful Conviction of Sean Ellis
October 26, 7:00 PM Congregational Church of Needham

How did a former student from Needham Public Schools end up spending 21 years in prison for a crime he did not commit? Come hear Sean's remarkable story and join our discussion about wrongful convictions in Massachusetts, and the continued role of racial bias in our criminal justice system, and the critical work on the New England Innocence Project. High School students are encouraged to attend.

An Evening with Rev. Traci Blackmon

Oct. 28, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

United Church in Walpole

Join The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries of The United Church of Christ, for an evening of inspiration and deep learning surrounding social justice issues in our nation. There is no charge to attend this event, but tickets are required, and there is an opportunity to donate to Justice Ministries when signing up. Are you interested in going with a group from our church? Contact Revjim@needhamucc.org

Give Light: Spiritual Nurture for Climate Activism In these disheartening times of climate disruption, how do we convert informed anxiety into effective action? Veteran climate activist Rev. Fred Small will be leading an interactive multi-faith workshop on **Sunday, November 12 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m., at First Parish in Needham, 23 Dedham Ave.** He will lead activists and activists-to-be in meditation, reflection, conversation, and song to strengthen our spirits in the struggle for climate justice. The workshop, sponsored by seven MetroWest houses of worship, will conclude with inspiring stories illustrating how all of us can make a difference. Registration is free, with a suggested donation of \$10 at the event. Please register at: <https://tinyurl.com/GiveLightWorkshop>

Calling all Bakers! As part of our Membership care efforts, the desire has been expressed to

improve upon our coffee hour offerings. And what better way than to offer home baked and nut free goodies, including also gluten free items. Rev. Heike invites anyone to a monthly afternoon of baking at the church. The dates are November 15 and December 20, 2017 in the 1154 GPA kitchen. We can bake a lot in one afternoon and then freeze the goods for Sunday's coffee hour. If you wish to contribute to coffee hour but cannot help us bake, we gratefully accept donations. Please contact Rev. Heike if you want to help or donate.

Bible Study Please join us in the reception room from 11:30-12:30 for Bible Study. We gather to read and discuss a few chapters of the Bible each week. This fall we will be reading Revelations. No advance reading required, so please drop by if you would like to try us out! For questions, contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com.

What are you doing next Sunday? Would you like to contribute to the life of our church, but are worried that you might not have the time? Consider ushering! Ushers serve one Sunday per month, and need to be in the sanctuary from about 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after service. Interested? Please speak with Eric Slosser or email him at eric@slosser.net.

ECO Words Winter moths, the small whitish insects attracted en masse to outdoor lights late November to early January, are an invasive species. The female moths don't fly but climb trees and lay eggs in the bark. The hatchlings bore into leaf buds in the spring. Left unchecked, the green inchworms can defoliate trees. Parasitic flies that prey on the winter moth larvae were released in Wellesley in 2008 and have been slowly lessening the impact in Needham. For information on how to protect your trees, please go to the EMT page on the church's website or contact EMT@needhamucc.org for more information.

Village Fair News : The Village Fair Needs You!! November 18, 9:30 am-3:00 pm!

What: Our church's Village Fair, a long-time tradition of fun and fellowship!

When: Saturday, November 18, 9:30 am-3:00 pm, and for a short time following the service on Sunday, November 19.

Where: Fellowship Hall and Linden Hall

Who: YOU! We need prep cooks, sorters, pricers, servers, cashiers ... Look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour. We welcome new faces!

Why: Join in the fun and fellowship of preparing for and helping at this festive annual event! This is a great way to meet and mingle with other members of your church family.

“What can I do to help and to join in the fun?” There are many opportunities to volunteer and to donate. **Sign up** sheets to volunteer your time will be available at Coffee Hour following the service. If you cannot sign up then, please email Jane Brand at ajbrand@comcast.net to sign up. We especially need people to help during the afternoon of Fair day (Saturday, Nov. 18, 1:30-3:30), as well as following the church service on

Sunday, Nov. 19, and during the week leading up to the Fair (Monday, Nov. 13 to Friday, Nov. 17).

Donations of the following items gratefully accepted: *baked goods* (pies, breads, cookies). Pie pans will be available for pie bakers to pick up at Coffee Hour starting in mid-October *****BAKERS**: *Please email Carol Miller at millerc291@verizon.net to let her know what you are willing to bake*]; *hand-knitted items*; *used books* (including CDs, DVDs, puzzles and small games in good condition); *Timeless Treasures* (dishes, glassware, vases, linens, decorative items and the like); *jewelry* (both fine and costume jewelry); *re-purposed items* (those which you have already given new life to, and items which can be repurposed, such as wine corks, medium to large size wooden picture frames, battery powered candles, old mirrors, fall and holiday silk flowers and foliage); *Christmas decorations* (green wreaths, small trees, ornaments and decorative items, interesting containers and baskets for decorations).

Donations of hand knit items, used books, jewelry, and items for Timeless Treasures can be left on the stage in Fellowship Hall -- at the back left corner behind the curtain. Please label your box or bag "Village Fair."

Donations of repurposed items and Christmas decorations can be dropped off in the box labeled "Village Fair Donations" located in the hall by the chapel.

**** NEW! We have a surprise promotional event for the Fair, and need donations of stuffed animals – used is fine. Please leave them in the box labeled "Stuffed Animals" by the chapel.*

Village Fair questions? Contact Jane Brand at ajbrand@comcast.net.

ELF SHOP The Elf Shop is returning to the Village Fair! Donations of smaller, inexpensive items – like soap, candles, decorations, small games or toys – that children can “purchase” as gifts for their parents, siblings and other family or friends are requested. In addition, donations of wrapping paper are needed. A box for Elf Shop donations is located outside the chapel. If leaving a bag or box, please label it “Elf Shop.”

2017 Village Fair Auction “THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU” for your generous donations to the Auction LAST year! So far this year we have NO donations. Please consider making a donation so we can have a great auction. Some ideas: Gift certificates to restaurants, hair salons, spas, sports tickets and/or a food basket. Be creative. Thank you. Your Auction Chairs, Caryl Johnson, caryljohnson@gmail.com and Fabienne Madsen, madsen.family@comcast.net’

Sun. November 12th at 11:30 and 12:30pm - Bylaws Review Presentation. A team of Deacons and Board Members has initiated a review of our Church's bylaws to identify areas where updates would be helpful. We are ready to present the teams proposed changes for Congregational review, to be voted on at the January's Annual Meeting.

You can find a copy of the current Bylaws on the church web site. Click [here](#). Or, from the Church home page (needhamucc.org) mouse over "Come" in the upper left. A pop-up menu will appear, click on "Who We Are". The "Who We Are" page will appear. Click on "Our Church Bylaws" near the top.

Noah's Ark Preschool is in the process of enrolling children for the 2018 – 2019 school year! Noah's Ark offers priority enrollment to returning students, siblings, and Congregational Church of Needham members, respectively, now through November 17th. If you would like to tour the school and to receive more information, please call Laurie Davis at 781-449-2439. Additional information can be gathered from our website at: www.noahsarkneedham.org.

10/15/2017 Collections* = \$3,660.02

10/15/2017 Worship Attendance = 116 People

September Electronic Pledge Amount: \$11,161.74

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

*Collection amount does not include additional pledges received electronically. Our current pledge amount for 2017 is \$367,804.00. This represents a budget shortfall of \$56,459.00 for the year.

Sunday October 22nd	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 2:00 pm 4:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Education-Reformation, <i>Library</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i> Once in a While Choir, <i>Sanctuary</i> Needham Human Rights Speaker Series, <i>Needham Public Library</i> Guatemala Concert
Monday October 23rd	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Tuesday October 24th	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wednesday October 25th	7:30 pm	Accompaniment on the Journey: Partnership w/ Immigrants in the Face of Unjust Laws, <i>First Parish Needham</i>
Thursday October 26th	7:00 pm	Joined in Action– NE Innocence Project Event, <i>Fellowship Hall/Linden Hall</i>
Sunday October 29th	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 1:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Transition Information Meeting, <i>Library</i> Worship Service-Reformation Sunday, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Education-Reformation, <i>Linden Hall</i> Transition Information Meeting, <i>Library</i> Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Once in a While Choir, <i>Chapel</i> Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday October 30th	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Board Meeting, <i>Library</i> Transition Team, <i>Conference Room</i>
Wednesday November 1st All Saint's Day	7:00 pm	Vesper's, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday November 2nd	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>Library</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>

**SAVE THE
DATE**



Sunday

November 5th

The Church's 160th Anniversary

Stewardship Kick Off

Window Dedication

End of the Capital Campaign

3152

Welcome



1. Let's walk to- geth - er for a while and
 2. Let's talk to- geth - er of a time when
 3. Let's dream to- geth - er of the day when



ask where we be - gin — to build a world where
 we will share a feast, — where pride and pow - er
 earth and heaven are one, — a ci - ty built of



love can grow and hope can en - ter in, — — to
 kneel to serve the lone - ly and the least, — — and
 love and light, the new Je - ru - sa - lem, — where our



be the hands of heal - ing and to
 joy will set the ta - ble as we
 mourn - ing turns to danc - ing, ev - ery



plant the seed of peace, — sing - ing wel - come,
 join our hands to pray, — sing - ing wel - come,
 crea - ture lifts its voice, — cry - ing wel - come,



wel - come to this place. You're in - vit - ed to



come and know God's grace. All are wel - come the

love of God to share _____ 'cause all of us are wel-come here; _

all are wel-come in this place. _____

WORDS: Laurie Zelman and Mark A. Miller

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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WELCOME

Irr. with Refrain

With vigor

1. Built on a rock the church doth stand, E - ven when stee - ples are
 2. Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the al - might - y, is
 3. We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for God's own hab - i -

fall - ing; Crum - bled have spires in 'ev - ery land, Bells still are
 dwell - ing; High in the heavens a tem - ple stands, All earth - ly
 ta - tion; God fills our hearts, as hum - ble thrones, Grant - ing us

chim - ing and call - ing; Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 tem - ples ex - cell - ing; Yet God who dwells in heaven a - bove
 life and sal - va - tion; Were two or three to seek God's face,

Call - ing the souls of all dis - tressed, Long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 Deigns to a - bide with us in love, Mak - ing our bod - ies a tem - ple.
 God in our midst would show us grace, Bless - ings up - on us be - stow - ing.

4 Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
 Jesus the children is blessing;
 Hither we come to praise God's name,
 Faith in our Savior confessing;
 Jesus to us the Spirit sent,
 Making with us the covenant;
 Granting us life and salvation.

5 Through all the passing years, O God,
 Grant that when church bells are ringing,
 Many may come to hear God's word
 Where God this promise is bringing:
 "I know my own, mine own know me,
 Ye, not the world, my face shall see;
 My peace I leave with you, amen."

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

517

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and
by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife
and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

ERHALT UNS, HERR
LM

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.)