



# The Congregational Church of Needham

*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**October 8, 2017 10:00am**

**Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi observed  
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Saint Francis and the Sow**  
BY GALWAY KINNELL

The bud  
stands for all things,  
even those things that don't flower,  
for everything flowers, from within, of self-blessing;  
though sometimes it is necessary  
to reteach a thing its loveliness,  
to put a hand on its brow  
of the flower  
and retell it in words and in touch  
it is lovely  
until it flowers again from within, of self-blessing;  
as St. Francis  
put his hand on the creased forehead  
of the sow, and told her in words and in touch  
blessing of earth and on the sow, and the sow  
began remembering all down her thick length,  
from the earthen snout all the way  
through the fodder and slops to the spiritual curl of  
the tail,  
from the hard spininess spiked out from the spine  
down though the great broken heart  
to the blue milken dreaminess spurting and shuddering  
from the fourteen teats into the fourteen mouths sucking  
and blowing beneath them:  
the long, perfect loveliness of sow.

*Welcome to our worship service.*

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

## **PRELUDE**

Sinfonia 5  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)*

Tolling the Bells 59 Times  
#EndGunViolence

## **WELCOME SONG**

*(see insert)*

**Welcome**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

## **OPENING PRAYERS**

*Let us Pray A Prayer attribute to Saint Francis of Assisi*

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:**

**where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon;**

**where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope;**

**where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek**

**to be consoled as to console,**

**to be understood as to understand,**

**to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive,**

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

**Amen.**

*Let Us Pray*

**Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace gladly to renounce the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #17 (Black, New Century) To You, O God, All Creatures Sing**

### **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Children leave for Christian Education after Time for Children*

### **CHILDREN'S HYMN**

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

### **ANTHEM**

Prayer of St. Francis  
*Allen Pote (b.1945)*

### **SELECTION OF READINGS**

“St. Francis of Assisi, Writings and Early Biographies, *English Omnibus of the Sources for the Life of St. Francis*”

Changed now perfectly in heart and soon to be changed in body too, he was walking one day near the church of St. Damian, which had nearly fallen to ruin and was abandoned by everyone. Led by the Spirit, he went in and fell down before the crucifix in devout and humble supplication; and smitten by unusual visitations, he found himself other than he had been when he entered. While he was thus affected, something unheard of before happened to him: the painted image of Christ crucified moved its lips and spoke. Calling him by name it said: “Francis, go, repair my house, which, as you see, is falling completely to ruin.” Trembling, Francis was not a little amazed and became almost deranged by these words. He prepared himself to obey and gave himself completely to the fulfillment of this command. But since he felt that the change he had undergone was beyond expression, it is becoming that we should be silent about what he could not express. From then on compassion for the crucified was rooted in his holy soul, and, as it can be piously supposed, the stigmata of the venerable passion were deeply imprinted in his heart, though not as yet upon his flesh.

Gospel Matthew 21: 23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father

went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the Commonwealth of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

**HYMN**

*(see insert)*

**O Brother Sun**

**SERMON**

Rev. Jim Mitulski

**PRAYER SONG**

**Peace Before Us**

**Peace before us, peace behind us,  
peace under our feet. Peace within us,  
peace over us, let all around be peace.**

**Love before us, love behind us,  
love under our feet. Love within us,  
love over us, let all around us be love.**

**Alleluia.**

**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*

**O All Ye Nations**  
*Heinrich Schutz (1585 - 1672)*

*\*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 #31** (*Black, New Century*)

**All Things Bright and Beautiful**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Sinfonietta  
*George Frederik Handel (1685 - 1759)*

*Notes on this week's liturgy* : The text to "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" is based on one written by Francis of Assisi, and recast by a nun, Miriam Theresa Winter, a feminist liturgical scholar who teaches at Hartford Theological Seminary, a historically related UCC seminary. O Brother Sun, O Sister Moon is another version of the text set to a Scottish folk tune. The first opening prayer is attributed to Francis, though not generally thought to be written by him, which does not diminish its spiritual value; it's consistent with the legend and his values. The second collection is from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. The first lesson is from a 13th century biography of Francis, in a comprehensive collection of sources called by scholars "the Omnibus".

Churches around the country are tolling their bells at some point during their services this morning. There are many contemporary counter-culture treatments of the Life of Francis, most notably Franco Zeffirelli's 1972 film Brother Sun, Sister Moon.

Galway Kinnell (1927-2014) was an American poet. For his 1982 Selected Poems he won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and split the National Book Award for Poetry with Charles Wright. From 1989 to 1993 he was poet laureate for the state of Vermont.

*Worship Assistant:* Crosby Goshgarian    *Deacons:* Charles Baker, Carol Miller  
*Altar Guild:* Denice Koljonen    *Ushers:* David Libby, Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Scott Lively  
*Flowers:* Jane Brand    *Flower Delivery:* Jean Veigas

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory  
of Emily Brand by the Brand Family.*

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](mailto:revjim@needhamucc.org), Rev Heike at [revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto: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](http://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 Child-care 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](mailto:RevJim@needhamucc.org)  
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Handyman—Bill Donovan

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*The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**October 8, 2017**

**SAVE THE DATE – Super Saturday – October 21<sup>st</sup>** A day of workshops, worship and fellowship! Join us at the UCC's Super Saturday event and find out what is going on in other UCC churches in our area. We would like to bring a group of 8-12 people representing our church. Talk to Rev. Jim or email the church office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) to get registered, or with any questions.

**COMING UP/GET YOUR TICKETS: GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT/SILENT AUCTION – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 4:00 – 6:00 PM.** Church Sanctuary. Please join us for this double musical treat, featuring performances by both pianist Soomi Lee and by Libana, with a silent auction in between! One of our own, Soomi earned her masters at the New England Conservatory and has performed internationally as well as with the Boston Pops and various Boston-area symphonies. Libana is a Boston-based ensemble of 6 women who perform world music that connects cultures. Per the Boston Globe: "World Class! ... a globe-circling sound ...The music brings universal understanding across borders." Purchase your tickets (\$15/person) on-line at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-guatemala-partnership-30th-anniversary-concert-tickets-38214154565> Tickets will also be available at the Guatemala table during Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 15th.

### **Mindfulness Meditation – Sunday, Oct. 8 & 22 at 11:30am**

The Mindfulness Practice Group has decided to meet twice a month on the second and fourth Sunday's for Mindfulness Meditation in the Chapel.

**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.

*Here are two activities taking place in the area that might be of interest to you this month*

### **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**

**Oct. 19, 7:00 PM**

**Trinity Church, Boston**

Join Co-Convenors Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis for a Mass Meeting for the *Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival* to learn about the inspiration, vision and strategy of the PPC. Are you interested in going with a group from our church? Contact [revjim@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjim@needhamucc.org)

## **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](mailto:Revjim@needhamucc.org)

**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-made 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 October 18, 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](mailto: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](mailto:eric@slosser.net).

**Get ready for another season of CHIMING!** Rehearsals have begun, and we welcome any--men, women, young adults, youth--who wants to join in music making. You don't have to be a musician or read music (Many of our chimers mark their music with the 2 NOTES they play), but you will need 2 good arms/wrists, an ability to keep time as you make music with others, and commitment to coming to rehearsals (after church 11:30-12:15). We are looking for regular chimers and subs (who cannot make a regular commitment). Our leader Crosby Goshgarian makes chiming a lot of fun, and everyone is so patient and encouraging. Contact: Joanne Seiden ([jseiden@basiclink.com](mailto:jseiden@basiclink.com), 781-449-6535) for more information or speak to one of the chimers. WE NEED YOU!

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

**Volunteer!** Join in the fun and fellowship of preparing for and helping at this festive annual event! We need prep cooks, sorters, pricers, servers, cashiers ... Look for sign-up sheets at coffee hour. We welcome new faces! This is a great way to meet and mingle with other



members of your church family.

***Bake!*** Bakers needed! What's your specialty? Pies, breads, cookies, bars? Maybe even a cake? Baked goods can be dropped off at Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 17 -- except for pies, which should be dropped off the morning of the Fair. Pie pans will be available for pie bakers to pick up starting in mid-October.

***Knit!*** Do you have a talent for knitting and needlework? Consider sharing your talents, with a handmade donation to our Knitting and Handcrafts Table.

***Donate!*** What can you donate? All kinds of things!

*Used Books* --Pass on those summer reads and other used books! (CDs, DVDs and puzzles welcome, too.)

*Timeless Treasures* – Wondering what to do with Great Aunt Tillie's candlesticks? Or that vase you received for your wedding that you've just *never* used? Pass them on to someone who will cherish them! We welcome donations of dishes, glassware, vases, linens, decorative items and the like.

*Jewelry* – Take a look through your jewelry box (check in the back!) If you find something that you don't wear any longer, please consider donating it. Donations of both fine and costume jewelry accepted.

***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."***

*Garden Fence* – Christmas-related items -- green wreaths, small trees, ornaments and decorative items, as well as interesting containers and baskets -- can be repurposed into new decorations and displays to bring joy as a gift or to brighten your own home during the holidays.

*Recycle, Re-purpose, Re-invent* – The EMT team is looking for donated items – such as wine corks, wooden picture frames (medium to large size), battery powered candles, old mirrors, fall and holiday silk flowers and foliage -- which can be given new life and repurposed into new creations.

***Donations for Garden Fence and Recycle, Re-purpose, Re-invent can be dropped off in the box labeled "Village Fair Donations" located in the hall by the chapel.***

Village Fair questions? Contact Jane Brand at [ajbrand@comcast.net](mailto:ajbrand@comcast.net).

**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](mailto:caryljohnson@gmail.com) and Fabienne Madsen, [madsen.family@comcast.net](mailto: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 will be ready to presenting 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](http://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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.noahsarkneedham.org).

10/1/2017 Collections\* = \$2,147  
10/1/2017 Worship Attendance = 114 People  
September Electronic Pledge Amount: \$11,161.74

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510 or [office@needhamucc.org](mailto: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<br>October 8th     | 8:30 am<br>10:00 am<br>11:30 am                               | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i><br>JR & SR to King Richard's Faire  |
| Monday<br>October 9th     |   | Office Closed for the Holiday   |
| Wednesday<br>October 11th | 7:00 pm   | Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>  |
| Friday<br>October 13th    | 5:00 pm   | Youth Group Lock-In   |
| Sunday<br>October 15th    | 8:15 am<br>8:30 am<br>10:00 am<br><br>11:30 am<br><br>4:00 pm | Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i><br>Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Worship Service-Reception of New Members,<br><i>Sanctuary</i><br>Adult Education-Reformation, <i>Library</i><br>Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Mystery Dinner Rehearsal |
| Monday<br>October 16th    | 9:00 am   | Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>   |
| Tuesday<br>October 17th   | 7:00 pm   | Finance Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i><br>Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>   |
| Thursday<br>October 19th  | 7:30 pm   | Meditation Book Group, <i>Library</i><br>Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>   |
| Saturday<br>October 21st  | 5:00 pm   | Youth Group Mystery Dinner Theatre  |
| Sunday<br>October 22nd    | 8:30 am<br>10:00 am<br>11:30 am<br><br>4:00 pm                | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Adult Education-Reformation, <i>Library</i><br>Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i><br>Once in a While Choir, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Guatemala Concert                     |

# FAMILY PICTURES!

Send in a current picture of  
you/your family for the



## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Pictures can be sent as an email  
attachment to [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org).  
Deadline: Monday, October 16th

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

WELCOME  
Irr. with Refrain

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## O Brother Sun

$\text{♩} = 138$

C7 Dm7 Gm7 F C7sus4 B $\flat$ /C F C

*Fine*

1. O  
2. O

F Gm7 Am7 B $\flat$ 6 C7 Dm7

Broth - er Sun, — you bring — us light, — all shin - ing  
Broth - er Fire, — you warm — our night — with all — your

B $\flat$  Gm11 F/G C7sus4 C7 Dm7 C/E

'round — in fier - y night. O — Sis - ter Moon, — you  
danc - ing col - ored light. O — Sis - ter Earth, — you

F Gm7 C7 F B $\flat$

heal — and bless, — your beau - ty shines — in  
feed — all things, — all birds, — all crea-tures, — all

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a guitar chord chart above the staff, a vocal melody line with lyrics, and a bass line. The first system ends with a 'Fine' marking and two endings for the first line of the melody. The second system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The third system contains the next two lines of lyrics. The fourth system contains the final two lines of lyrics. The guitar chords are: C7, Dm7, Gm7, F, C7sus4, Bb/C, F, C, F, Gm7, Am7, Bb6, C7, Dm7, Bb, Gm11, F/G, C7sus4, C7, Dm7, C/E, F, Gm7, C7, F, Bb.

O Brother Sun - 2

C7 F Dm7 B♭M7 Dm7

ten - der - ness. O Broth - er Wind, you sweep the  
scales and wings. O Sis - ter Death, you meet us

B♭M7 Gm7 Am7 F/A E♭M7 F/E♭

hills, your might - y breath both fresh - ens and  
here and take us to our God so

Csus4 C Dm7 C/E F

fills. O Sis - ter Wa - ter, you cleanse and  
near. O God of Life, we give you

Gm7 C7 Dm7 Gm7 C7sus4 B♭/C F

*D.C. al Fine after verse 2*

flow through riv - ers and streams, in ice and snow.  
praise for all your crea - tures, for all your ways.