



# The Congregational Church of Needham

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

**November 12, 2017 10:00am**

**Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Recognition of our Veterans  
Celebrating the Ministry of the Massachusetts Council of  
Churches  
The Future is Now: Pledge Campaign 2017**

*Welcome to our worship service.*

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

*Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade begin in the sanctuary and are dismissed to their classrooms after Time for Children.*

**PRELUDE**

*(see insert)*

**Welcome Song**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

**Recognition of Veterans**

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**CALL To Worship**

**Wisdom of Solomon 6: 12-16**

One: Call upon God's Wisdom

**All: She will answer!**

One: Seek God's Wisdom

**All: She dwells in the midst of life.**

One: Follow God's Wisdom

**All: She leads in the paths of light and generosity.**

## **GATHERING PRAYER**

Holy God,  
We hear echoes of your Wisdom in Christ Jesus,  
The One you sent to dwell in our midst  
and lead us to abundant life.  
Keep us alert to the call to follow,  
ready to respond with justice and joy  
in your holy moment,  
which is always Now.

**\*OPENING HYMN #22** (*Black, New Century*)      **Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped**

## **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Children leave for Sunday School 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.**

## **ANTHEM**

Set Me as a Seal  
*David N. Childs (b. 1969)*  
French Horn - Phil Gotwals

**Pledge Campaign 2017 The Future is Now**

## **SELECTION OF READINGS**

**HYMN #394** (*Black, New Century*)

**In Christ There is No East or West**

## **SERMON**

The Reverend Laura Everett  
Executive Director, Massachusetts Council of Churches

**HYMN** (*see insert*)

**All through the Night**  
*Inspired by recent incidents of gun violence, from United Church of Christ.*

## **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...debtors/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

Keep Your Lamps  
*Spiritual arr. Andre Thomas (b. 1952)*

*\* 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 #23** *(Black, New Century)*

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Thank you to Lisa Taillacq for directing the Chancel Choir  
and to Phil Gotwals for sharing his gift of music today.*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph and Billy  
Cotton by the Cotton Family.*

*Worship Assistant: Sue Cotton*

*Deacons: Paul Brown, Lucy Slosser*

*Altar Guild: Denice Koljonen*

*Ushers: David Libby, Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Scott Lively*

*Flowers: Jan Rubenstein*

*Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden*

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 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](mailto:RevJim@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister—The Rev. Heike Werder  
[RevHeike@needhamucc.org](mailto:RevHeike@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries—Madelyn Downer  
[Youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:Youth@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Organist/Accompanist—Sangyoung Kim  
Housekeeper—Sanira Alchaar

Church Administrator—Danielle Jurdan  
[Office@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant & Bookkeeper—Cindy Sullivan  
[Office2@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office2@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Music Director—Valerie Becker  
[musicdirector@needhamucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org)

Handyman—Bill Donovan

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**November 12, 2017**

**TODAY: 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. Type in <http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/BYLAWS-revision-2011.pdf> 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.

**TODAY: Bring-A-Friend Brunch: Sunday, November 12, after worship**

All are invited to participate in our Bring-A-Friend Brunch on Sunday, November 12 after worship. The Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will prepare and serve breakfast in gratitude for the support and fellowship of our church community. We'll have a wide range of breakfast foods to nourish your body and great conversation with old and new friends to feed your spirit!

**TODAY: Mindfulness Meditation November 12 at 11:30am.** The Mindfulness Practice Group meets twice a month on the second and fourth Sunday's for Mindfulness Meditation in the Chapel.

**The Transition Team** has several goals in the process of preparing our Church Profile. While the survey completion is critical, we also are striving for as much transparency as we can achieve. With that in mind, we will be putting blurbs into the bulletin each week with updated information. A lot of this will be generated by questions that we get from the congregation, so thank you for your interest and involvement. Look for a "Transition Team" page on the church web site where each week's message will be archived. Refer back to it for information that you may have missed.

What questions has the Transition Team been getting? "Can you explain the difference between the Church Profile and the Survey?"

The Survey that we have chosen to use will be an important tool in developing an in depth statistical description of our church congregation and those involved within our church community. The five open ended questions at the end of the survey will provide more anecdotal responses which we will carefully compile to get a "snapshot" of who we want to be as a church.

After the Survey results have been professionally analyzed and presented to the Transition Team, we will start offering small group meetings to offer more opportunities for feedback. Members of the team and interested volunteers will also meet with groups in the Community to both get a sense of how our church is viewed by them, and how we can become more helpful and involved in the Community. After all of this is compiled, we will complete our Church Profile which will become the framework through which the Search Team starts the work of selecting the best Candidate.

We welcome your questions and will have members of the Transition Team available at coffee hour to help with any questions you may have.

Our choice of our next minister will be influenced by our Church Profile, which will be prepared using the answers to the survey and the input from the Congregation. The survey is one of the tools through which YOUR VOICE will be heard. Every individual should complete the survey, and please note that it will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The way the survey is set up, each question must be answered, and it must be completed in one session. We thank you for your input and opinions!

Haven't taken the survey? Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CongregationalCNeedham>

Have a question for the transition team? Want to set up a meeting with a transition team member? Here's the address to do so. All opinions are welcome!  
transitionteam@needhamucc.org

**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, November 19** Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall from 9 to 9:45 am. We need the 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](mailto:cicihunt@gmail.com).

**JR & SR High Youth Members:** We need lots of helpers! Please let Maddie know if you can participate in preparing breakfast! **We do need 2 adults to help us prepare in the kitchen** -- if you can help please let Maddie know.

## VILLAGE FAIR NEWS

WOW!! The Village Fair is less than three weeks away!! What can I do to help? Volunteer your time! Sign up sheets will be available at Coffee Hour following the service. If you cannot sign up then, please email Jane Brand at [ajbrand@comcast.net](mailto:ajbrand@comcast.net) to sign up. We especially need help following the church service on Sunday, Nov. 19, and during the week leading up to the Fair (Monday, Nov. 13 to Friday, Nov. 17).

Donate new or gently used items, such as ...

*hand-knitted items; used books* (including CDs, DVDs, puzzles and small games in good condition); *Timeless Treasures* (dishes, glassware, vases, linens, decorative items in good condition); *jewelry* (both fine and costume jewelry); *re-purposed items* (things you have created, but no longer use); *Christmas decorations* (green wreaths, small trees, ornaments and decorative items, interesting containers and baskets for decorations); *stuffed animals* (used is fine); *baked goods* (pies, breads, cookies). Pie pans will be available for pie bakers to pick up at Coffee Hour [BAKERS: Please email Carol Miller at [millerc291@verizon.net](mailto:millerc291@verizon.net) to let her know what you are willing to bake].

*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, Christmas decorations and stuffed animals can be dropped off in the boxes located in the hall by the chapel.*

### **ELF SHOP**

The Elf Shop is returning to the Village Fair! A magical emporium designed for young shoppers and supervised by older youth group elves. Children enjoy games and activities, story times, and assisted shopping and gift wrapping, while parents can browse other areas of the Village Fair. **DONATIONS NEEDED** of: *toys and games or small gift items* (soaps, candles, decorative items) that children can purchase for their families and friends and *wrapping paper* for a fundraising gift-wrap station staffed by youth group. Stay tuned for more details. A box for Elf Shop donations is located outside the chapel. If leaving a bag or box, please label it "Elf Shop." Thank you!

**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 20+ 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)"

**Begin the Holiday Season with our Christmas Concert:** The church's annual Christmas Concert will be held Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 p.m. with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to support this event— provided by Music Director Valerie J. Becker, the Chancel Choir, the Friendly Chimers and guest harpist Martha Moor. You may make a donation, specify a memorial, honorarium, or remembrance and your name will be listed in the concert program.

Invite your friends and neighbors and support this fun event with your presence and your monetary donation. Checks may be made payable to the Congregational Church of Needham with “Christmas Concert” noted on the memo line.

**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.

**Family Promise** Let’s make our upcoming support week a special one. We’re supporting FCC in Natick Center Thanksgiving week Nov. 19-25. It’s a time of family, food, home and giving thanks. Our church is signed-up for dinner **Sunday, Nov. 19.**

Let’s get a group together to provide a meal-main, sides, salad, dessert-perhaps a holiday family favorite! Please contact Susan Kirk [susanckirk@comcast.net](mailto:susanckirk@comcast.net) if you would like to participate (provide a part of the meal and/or host). Susan will deliver food and serve as one host of 2 hosts needed.

### **Friendly Society Meeting - Thursday, December 7th at 1:30pm**

Calling all Friendly Society members and friends! On December 7th after Rev. Heike’s delicious Soup lunch, we will gather to make Cheese Balls to sell for Holiday festivities. The Women's Morning Fellowship members have the expertise and experience and we'll enjoy their guidance as we revive this tradition. We'll meet at 1:30. If you have a food processor to bring or that we can borrow, please let Rev. Heike or Martha Lamb know at [martha\\_lamb@aol.com](mailto:martha_lamb@aol.com).

**SAVE THE DATE - Friendly Christmas Luncheon and Advent Lunch on December 14th. Details to follow.**

**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](mailto: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 cook-books will be released in time for preparing your Easter dinner!

**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>

**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).

**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](mailto:EMT@needhamucc.org) for more information.

**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).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THIS WEEK:** Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade begin in the sanctuary and are dismissed to their classrooms after Time for Children.

**NEXT WEEK:** Students in Kindergarten through 8th grade begin in the sanctuary and are dismissed to their classrooms after Time for Children.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGERS** Our Sunday School classes (Pre-K through 8th grade) will be singing “Let the Life I Live” during worship on Sunday, November 12. We will rehearse before church (9:30) on Sunday, November 12.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: SIGN-UPS BEGIN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

ALL are invited to participate in our Christmas pageant during our 4:00 PM worship service on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24. We have parts for the littlest littles (paging a baby Jesus!) all the way through our most seasoned members! Sign-ups are ongoing through Sunday, November 26. Our rehearsal schedule is listed below; participants need to be able to make at least one rehearsal prior to Christmas Eve along with the Christmas Eve rehearsal and service. Please come to Maddie, our youth director, with any questions!

Sunday, December 10: Lunch and rehearsal 11:30

Sunday, December 17: Lunch and rehearsal 11:30 (costumes distributed)

Sunday, December 24: Rehearsal 2:30-3:30, worship begins at 4

**ADVENT LUNCH & WORKSHOP: Sunday, December 3, after worship**

Families are invited to participate in our Advent lunch and workshop on Sunday, December 3rd following worship. We will gather in Linden Hall to make Christmas ornaments, cards, and Advent wreaths. Sandwiches, salad, and Christmas cookies will be served.

**COOKIES WITH SANTA: Saturday, December 17, 11:30-1:30 PM**

Join Santa Claus in the reception room for cookies and pictures. Parents, bring your phone or camera to take a picture of your little with the jolly old elf himself! Santa’s favorite snack of milk and cookies will be served to all! Gluten-free and nut-safe options will be available.

**YOUTH MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THIS WEEK:** JR High meets 4:00-5:30 PM; Halloween party! SR High meets 6:30-8:00 PM. Maddie’s community office hours are on Tuesday, November 14, 2:30-4:00 PM at Dunkin Donuts on Highland Ave.

**NEXT WEEK:** JR High meets 4:00-5:30 PM; big arts & crafts project & GROG. SR High meets 6:30-8:00 PM. Maddie’s community office hours are on Tuesday, November 21, 2:30-4:00 PM at Dunkin Donuts on Highland Ave.

**SR HIGH LOCK-IN: Friday, January 5-Saturday, January 6, 2018**

Senior High Youth Group students gather for their winter lock-in here at the church at 7:00 pm

on Friday. On Saturday, we will head to snow tubing at the Nashoba Valley Tubing Park before returning at 2 PM. Meals: Students will eat dinner on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The cost to students is \$50. If this event is cost-prohibitive for your student or family, please reach out to Maddie at [youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org). Friends of youth group members are welcome to join! RSVPs for this event are due Sunday, December 3, 2017. We are in need of 1 adult chaperone for overnight on Friday and 2 drivers on Saturday.

11/05/2017 Collections\* = \$2032.50

11/05/2017 Worship Attendance = 126 people

October Electronic Pledge Amount: \$13,581.93

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 November 12th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am  1:00 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service-Rev Laura Everett Preaching, <i>Sanctuary</i> All Church Brunch—Youth Group, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Bylaws Review, <i>Library</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i> Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bylaws Review, <i>Library</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday November 13th	9:00 am 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Wednesday November 15th	3:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Baking w/ Heike, <i>1154 Kitchen</i> Board Meeting, <i>Library</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday November 16th	7:30 pm	Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday November 18th	9:30 am	Village Fair
Sunday November 19th	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am  1:00 pm 4:00 pm  6:30 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Village Fair, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Choir Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Interfaith Thanksgiving, <i>Saint Joseph Parish—1350 Highland Street, Needham</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday November 20th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Tuesday November 21st	7:00pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thursday November 23rd		<i>Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed</i>
Friday November 24th		<i>Church Office Closed</i>



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. \_\_\_\_\_

# All Through the Night

Tune: Finlandia

Lyrics by Randy K. Hammer Copyright 2016

Jean Sibelius 1899

Inspired by incidents of gun violence

Piano

All through the night, to God I raise my plead - ings; through tears of  
At break of dawn, I lift my eyes and sun - ward; and see the

Piano

6  
pain I suf - fer through the hours. - How long, O Lord, I  
rays roll back the clouds of gloom. - A gleam of hope shines

Piano

11  
cry and of - ten won - der, - shall vio - lent ones, their hate - ful deeds im -  
through to give as sur - ance - that kind - ly deeds shall in the end pre -

Piano

16  
part? And e - vil win O - ver the good that souls do?  
vail! That hu - man - kind can some - day live to - geth - er -

Piano

21  
- And sense - less kill - ing rage through - out the land?  
- In per - fect peace and har - mo - ny and love.

*Our guest preacher today The Rev. Laura E. Everett serves at the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the state ecumenical network of 17 Orthodox and Protestant denominations, congregations and individual Christians convinced what binds us together in Christ is stronger than anything that might divided us. A graduate of Brown University, Ms. Everett received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. A dedicated urbanist and bicycle evangelist, Rev. Laura is also the author of “Holy Spokes: The Search for Urban Spirituality on Two Wheels.” Committed to the renewal and thriving of vibrant Christian institutions, she serves as an advisor with Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School.*

### **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.)*