



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

November 23, 2014

Theme: Stewardship



Our 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.

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.



Sunday, November 23, 2014

10:00am

*Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians. Childcare is available in the crib/toddler room on the lower level for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers go directly to classes downstairs at 10 am. Grades 6-8 are in Stevenson Hall at 10 am. Grades K-5 will start in the Sanctuary at 10 am, then leave for Bible Village.
K-1: Art; Grades 2-3: Theater; Grades 4-5: Games*

PRELUDE

Berceuse Op. 24, No. 5
Joachim Andersen (1847-1909)
Bruce Goody, flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Diana Conroy

Leader: All that we have comes from God.

People: The earth with its oceans, and seas; the sun and rain; and our very lives.

Leader: All that we are comes from God.

People: Our families, our homes, our work and our dreams.

Leader: All that we give comes from God.

People: We are stewards, returning what we have been given.

Leader: Let us enter God's house with gratitude and praise.

***OPENING HYMN #461 (Red Hymnal)**

**Come, Ye Thankful
People, Come**

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**Disturb us, Lord, when we grow too well pleased with ourselves;
when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little;
when we arrived safely because we have sailed too close to shore.
when we possessed so much that we lost our thirst for the water of life.
Inspire us in this hour,
to venture onto wider seas, where storms will show your mastery;
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
Gracious God, push back the horizons of our hopes
And deepen our faith as we pray...**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

With Prayer and Supplication
Amy Beach (1867-1944)

ANTHEM

A Celtic Thanksgiving
Joseph Martin (b. 1959)
Shepherd's Staff Choir

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pharaoh, Pharaoh
Bible Village Students

(Children dismissed to Bible Village during hymn)

**CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 (Black Hymnal) We Are Marching in the
Light of God**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 19:16-30

p. 20

SERMON

“Generosity: The Key to Happiness”
Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) #492 (Black Hymnal)

I Would Be True

MORNING PRAYER

Barbara Livingston

Concerns and Celebrations

Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: O Lord, show your mercy upon us.

People: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

People: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Leader: Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Response

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

OFFERTORY

Anthem

I Will Give Thanks

Amy Beach

Teresa Winner-Blume, soprano

text:

I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart secretly among the faithful and in the congregation. The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have have pleasure therein. His work is worthy of praise and had in honor, and His righteousness endureth forever. He hath made a remembrance of His marvelous works; a merciful Lord. He hath given food to them that fear him, He will be mindful forever of His covenant. He hath showed forth to His people the power of His works. The works of His hands are verity and judgment. All his commandments are true, they stand fast forever and ever. Holy and reverend is His name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. His praise endureth forever and ever, amen.

****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 #425 (Black Hymnal) For the Fruit of All Creation**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You
Amy Beach

POSTLUDE

Siciliano
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Bruce Goody, flute

Now Thank We All Our God from Cantata No. 79
J.S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox (1912-1980)

A special thanks to Teresa Winner-Blume and Bruce Goody for sharing their special talents with us this morning.

****You are invited to stand.***

- Welcome to all who are here for the first time. Please fill out the blue “Welcome” card in the pews to receive weekly emails or newsletters.
- Please turn off your cell phone before attending the service.
- Please ask an usher if you would like a copy of the sermon, or need a hearing device. Copies of the sermons are also available on the sermon link at www.needhamucc.org, our church website.

Worship Leader: Diana Conroy

Deacons: Connie Kaufman, Joanne Seiden

Ushers: Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Chris Nyland, Kevin Ward

Altar Guild: Mary Barber

Flowers: Janet Rubenstein

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Juha Koljonen by his family.

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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
The Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Workshop: Dec 6, 3-5pm: Create edible winter creatures, sand art masterpieces, Christmas cards, advent wreaths and unique ornaments. Admission: \$10/family. **New this year:** at 4:45pm, we will parade down to the Christmas Tree Lighting which starts at 5pm at the Town Common.

Christmas Concert: Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Concert, **Sunday, December 7th at 4pm.** If you would like to support the concert or make a donation in memory of a loved one, please see music director Bobby DeRegis after the service or contact the office at office@needhamucc.org.

Lessons and Carols— Sunday, December 7th

The Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 7, at 4:00 p.m. to be followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute food or help with the reception, please call Doris Cook at (781) 444-5591. If you would like to be a reader for this please speak to Rev. Susan.

Friendly Society—Christmas Luncheon: Wednesday, December 17,

11:30am. Come enjoy Patty Stewart's famous holiday luncheon. Everyone is welcome to bring a favorite Christmas decoration to share. Look for more announcements about Friendly Society meetings weekly in the Bulletin and monthly in Focus. Questions can be directed to any of the Steering Committee members: Doris Cook, Margie Daganhardt, Joan Dimond, Barbara Lovely, Joanne Seiden or Patty Stewart.

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book Club meets **Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Reception Room.** The book club will run through the end of December and focus on books that explore spirituality. We are reading **Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth** by Reza Aslan from October thru December. Contact Christine Weitzel (cweitzel@verizon.net) or Reverend Susan Cartmell (revsusan@needhamucc.org) to join the group or for more information about the group.

Christmas Pageant: Preparations for our Christmas Pageant, are now underway. Rev. Jamie will again be directing this year's pageant which features more than 100 costumed performers! Be sure to sign-up for a part in the pageant by December 7th. Casting sheets are available at www.needhamucc.org/pageant and on the Christmas Bulletin Board in the office hallway. We have lots of space for participants of all ages, from kids to adults. Participants **MUST** be available for at least one rehearsal (Dec 14 and/or Dec 21) **AND** for dress rehearsal and performance on Dec. 24.

Sunday, December 7th: Casting Sheets Due

Sunday, December 14th , 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)

Sunday, December 21st, 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)

Wednesday, December 24th, 2pm-4pm: Dress rehearsal
(snacks included)

Wednesday, December 24th, 4pm-5pm: Performance

Christmas Caroling: Sun, Dec 21, 4-6pm: For all ages! (Kids can come even if not accompanied by an adult because we will have plenty of adult chaperones!) Meet at church at 4pm to carol at nursing homes and a Needham neighborhood. You can also ask for our map ahead of time and meet us anywhere along our route! **New this year:** At 6pm, we'll meet back at the church for a pizza dinner, Christmas cookies and hot cocoa!

Youth Choir: Do you know a child that likes to sing? We would love to have more students join our youth choirs.

FACT: One of the only activities that activates, stimulates, and uses the entire brain is Music.

FACT: Research shows that music is to the brain as physical exercise is to the human body. Music tones the brain for auditory fitness and allows it to decipher between tone and pitch.

Please consider this opportunity for your children!

Rehearsals are on Sundays throughout the year.

Joyful Noise—9:15-9:45 am

Hallelujah Choir—11:30-12:00 pm

Shepherd's Staff—12:00-1:00pm

Each choir will sing for the congregation 4-5 times throughout the year, culminating with Youth Sunday on June 7.

Adult Bible Study: Sunday 11:30 Conference Room: Everyone is welcome to join the Bible Study group that meets after church. This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. Last year, we read through Luke and Isaiah by discussing just a few chapters a week. Currently we are reading about the early church in the book of Acts. If you have been wondering what Bible Study is like, check us out! For more information, contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com

Seeds of Freedom: Liberating Education in Guatemala: Book presentation and signing by Clark Taylor, author ***Sunday, December 14, 11:30 a.m. in Linden Hall.*** The session will be about a book that is a case study of the exciting educational program in our partner village, Santa María Tzejá in Guatemala. The event will feature a PowerPoint of photos that will interest both experienced travelers as well as those who have never been to the village. Come and learn about key ways in which this church has made a powerful impact on the community and young people within it. Signed copies will be available for purchase at the end of the session. All are welcome.

CALENDAR

November 23rd — December 4th

Sunday, Nov. 23th	9:00 am 9:15 am 9:40 am 10:00am 11:30am	Chancel Choir, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise, <i>Choir Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Construction Update, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Monday, Nov. 24th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Thurs., Nov. 27th		Thanksgiving Office Closed
Friday, Nov. 28th		Office Closed
Sunday, Nov. 30th	9:00 am 10:00am 11:30am 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, Dec. 1st	9:00 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, Dec. 2nd	10:00am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., Dec. 3rd	7:00 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, Dec. 4th	10:30am 12:00pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Advent Lunch, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>

Christmas Concert



**Sun.
Dec. 7
4pm**