



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
OF NEEDHAM

November 24, 2013

Theme: Forgiveness

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 24, 2013

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the NEW crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers, Grades 7-8, and 9-12 go directly downstairs to classes at 10am. Grades K-6 starts in the sanctuary and leave after "Time for Children" to the chapel and then go to their workshops. K-1st in Cooking, 2nd-3rd in Story, and 4th-6th in Science. All workshops are downstairs in the main hallway.

PRELUDE

We Gather Together
arr. Wilbur Held (b. 1914)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jane Brand

Leader: People of God, enter this hour of worship.

People: May God be with us, in us, beside us and over us.

Leader: May God's hand be upon us, to fashion us for shining.

People: May God be like warmth within us, and fire us for caring.

Leader: May God be like strength beside us to help us live with faith.

People: May God inspire our music as we sing.

***OPENING HYMN #420 (NCH)**

We Praise You O God

OPENING PRAYER

Jane Brand

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Almighty God,

Whose breath quickened us,

Whose tongue named us,

Whose language we are:

Grant us grace to be true to ourselves and to You –

Not so self-involved that we miss the needs of others,

Not so self-important that we forget to be humble,

Not so frightened that we miss the gift of freedom,

Not so worried about appearances that we fail to be honest.

Bring us to our senses. Call us home again, as we pray...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

Prayer Response

O God in Heaven

New Century Hymnal No. 279, vs. 1 and 3

TIME FOR CHILDREN (Children to Bible Village during song.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN (#526)

We Are Marching In
The Light of God

ANTHEM

I Give You Thanks

Jody W. Lindh
Halleluiah Choir
Dave Darmofal, pianist

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis: 50:15-2

p. 46 OT

SERMON

“Hard Core Forgiveness”

Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) # 521 (NCH)

In Solitude

MORNING PRAYER

Heike Werder

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

Al Shlosa D'varim

arr. Allan Naplan

*(translation "The World is sustained by three
things, by truth, by justice and by peace")*

Shepherd's Staff Choir

Valerie Becker, Pianist

**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 #419 (NCH) Now Thank We All Our God**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*
John Rutter (b. 1945)

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God from Cantata 79*
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

****You are invited to stand.***
(NCH) stands for New Century Hymnal

- 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: Jane Brand

Deacons: Mary Lou Barber, Robert Kennedy

Ushers: Greg Rowan, Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Kevin Ward

Altar Guild: Mary Barber

Flowers: Janet Rubenstein

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Colleen M. Combes by Pat Ausman and Kathy French.

**NEEDHAM
INTERFAITH
THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**

*Sunday
November 24
4:00 pm*

The Congregational
Church of Needham
1154 Great Plain Ave

The Charitable Offering collected at the
service will benefit the Needham
Community Council
Sponsored by the Needham Clergy Assoc.



The Congregational Church of Needham
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www.needhamucc.org

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! November 24th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Sunday at the Congregational Church of Needham! All faith communities have been invited to a Thanksgiving Service on today at 4 p.m. This Interfaith Service is being held at our church this year with a reception to follow. Baked goods contributions will be graciously accepted for the Reception and can be dropped off at the church by 2pm today. Various members of the Needham Clergy Association are participating in the service including both of your ministers.

TODAY! November 24- GOD IN AMERICA: "A New Light" – Episode 4
This episode explores the forces of modernity that challenged traditional faith and drove a wedge between liberal and conservative believers during the 19th century.

Bible Study - This December both Bible Study Groups will complete the book Saving Jesus from the Church.

Thursday Group Update : They will finish Saving Jesus on Dec. 5, and then take a break until Jan. 9 then they start to read a new book on the 23rd Psalm- The Lord is My Shepherd by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Contact Christine Weitzel for more information crweitz@verizon.net

Sunday Group Update: They will continue to meet through December but are considering a switch to more classic Bible study, instead of reading a book about the Bible. Contact Sunu Yeh for more information- dormouse99@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE NOW-

We are collecting donations in memory of loved ones for the poinsettias that decorate the church at Christmas time. Christmas Flower Offering envelopes will be available in the church pews or the church office. Please return envelopes to the office by December 19. After the Christmas Eve services, many of the plants will be given to people in our congregation who are sick, homebound or in need of a little extra attention.

December 15, 2013 - The Rev. Dr. Brita Gill-Austern presents: Giving the Gifts that Matter: Hope, Faith and Love

Christmas is a time where we turn to gift giving and forget that the most precious gifts we can give another are faith, hope and love. The Bible has long told us of the preciousness of these 3 gifts, come now and learn what scientific, medical and sociological research is now discovering about faith, hope and love and how you might give the most important gifts of all. Join Rev. Brita Gill-Austern as we discuss these gifts and the Christmas Season.

NOMINATIONS -- If you are interested in serving on the church Board or one of its standing committees (Deacons, Outreach, Christian Education and Youth), please let us know! The ad hoc nominations committee is putting together a slate of nominees for January's annual meeting. If you would like to serve please get in touch with either Martha Lamb (Martha_lamb@aol.com) or Jane Brand (ajbrand@comcast.net), and let us know in what capacity you would like to serve!

CALENDAR November 24th – December 3rd

<p>Sunday November 24th</p>	<p>9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 9:15 am Hallelujah and Shepherd's Staff, Choir 10am Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study <i>Reception Room</i> God in America, 4th Episode, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanct.</i> 2pm Interfaith Choir Rehearsal for Thanksgiving Service, <i>Choir Room</i> 4pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> 5pm Interfaith Service Recept, <i>Fellowship Hall</i></p>
<p>Monday November 25th</p>	<p>9 am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i></p>
<p>Thurs & Fri. November 28th & 29th</p>	<p>Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</p>
<p>Sunday December 1st</p>	<p>9:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 9:15 am Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 10am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30am Bible Study <i>Reception Room</i> God in America, 5th Episode, <i>Linden Hall</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanct.</i> 12pm Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i></p>
<p>Monday December 2nd</p>	<p>9am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> 7:30pm Community Council of Needham, <i>Chapel</i></p>
<p>Tuesday December 3rd</p>	<p>10am Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>Conference Room</i> 6pm Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> 7pm EMT Meeting, <i>Chapel</i> Deacons Meeting, <i>Library</i></p>