



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 26, 2017 10:00am

**Feast of Christ the King
Last Sunday of the Church Year
Pledge Campaign 2017; Our Future is Now**

Welcome to our worship service.

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

*Childcare for infants, toddlers, & preschoolers is available downstairs for the service,
follow the signs for this Sunday. Today is a Family Sunday.*

*All students remain in worship with their families. Worship widgets and coloring
bulletins are available in the narthex.*

PRELUDE

Prelude
J. O. Armand

WELCOME SONG (*see page 5 for music*)

Soon and Very Soon (Andrae Crouch)

**Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!**

No more crying there, we are going to see the King!...

No more dying there, we are going to see the King!...

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 100)

Around the world this day,
the universal church celebrates the “*The Reign of Christ.*”

Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful,
has been enthroned above all authority and power
in this world and in the world that is to come.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
serve the Lord with gladness
come into his presence with singing.**

God has placed everything under Christ’s wounded feet,
appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns
as the supreme head of the church, his body.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
come into his courts with praise.**

Give thanks and praise his loving name! — written by Bruce Prewer

***OPENING HYMN #304** (*Black, New Century*)

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children return to their seats for worship.

CHILDREN’S HYMN

ANTHEM

A Place for You
Donald Callen Freed

SELECTION OF READINGS

Matthew 25: 31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you

something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

HYMN #40 (*Black, New Century*)

You Are the Way
Verses 1&2

SERMON "A Life Worth Living"

Rev. Heike Werder

HYMN #40 (*Black, New Century*)

You Are the Way
Verses 3&4

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

Eternal God
John Rutter(b. 1945)

* *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 # 538 (*Black, New Century*)
old

Standing at the Future's Thresh-
old

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Recessional Marche Romaine
Charles Gounod

Worship Assistant: Martha Lamb

Deacons: Dibby Moder, Charles Baker

Altar Guild: Jane Clayton-Matthews

Ushers: Craig Morrison, Valerie Kislter, Rob Blauvelt

Flowers: Jan Rubenstein

Flower Delivery: Jean Veigas

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in thankfulness for our dear family and friends by the Darmofal family.*

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.

Soon and Very Soon

Capo 3 F(D) Bb(G) F(D)

1,4 Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
 2 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
 3 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

C7(A7) F(D)

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

F(D) Bb(G) F(D) A7(F#7) Dm(Bm)

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King! Hal-le-
 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King! Hal-le-
 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King! Hal-le-

(B7/F#) (Em/G) (D/A) (Gm6) (D/A) (F#m/A) (D)
 D7/A Gm/Bb F/C Bbm6 F/C Am/C F

lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King!

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
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant & Bookkeeper—Cindy Sullivan
Office2@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Music Director—Valerie Becker
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Handyman—Bill Donovan

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

November 26, 2017

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.

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.

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

Mindfulness Meditation November 26 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.

We have so much to be thankful for in our church which was certainly demonstrated in our glorious Thanksgiving Service. The Transition Team would like to thank church members for the robust response in completing their surveys. Your contribution to developing our Church Profile is key and we are grateful. We understand how hectic life can be around the holiday, so if you

have not had a chance to submit your survey (either electronically or on paper) PLEASE do so. **Surveys must be in by NOVEMBER 30th.**

If you have not had the opportunity to attend church for the last few weeks, please see the Transition Team page on the church website. (Click on the “connect bar” then choose Transition Team from the drop-down menu to read all past Bulletin blurbs and the letter sent out on October 28.)

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!

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

Here is the link to the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CongregationalCNeedham>

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 next date is 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.

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 reci-

pe to 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 cookbooks will be released in time for preparing your Easter dinner!

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.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK: Students remain in the sanctuary for a Family Sunday worship service.

NEXT WEEK: Students begins in Children's Chapel (located in Stevenson Hall) before joining their families in the sanctuary for Communion.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: SIGN-UPS HAPPENING NOW!

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 pm

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 Ad-

vent 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: There will be no youth meetings on Sunday, November 26. Maddie's community office hours are on Tuesday, November 21, 2:30-4:00 PM at Dunkin Donuts on Highland Ave.

NEXT WEEK: *Maddie will be touch via email with more information. Maddie's community office hours are on Tuesday, December 5, 2:30-4:00 PM at Dunkin Donuts on Highland Ave.*

UPCOMING: 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. 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.

11/19/2017 Collections* = \$4,166.16 11/19/2017 Worship Attendance = 122 people

October Electronic Pledge Amount: \$13,581.93

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.

November 26th—December 10th

Sunday November 26th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i>
Monday November 27th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Sunday December 3rd	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Chimer Practice, <i>Sanctuary</i> Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i> Family Advent Wreath Workshop, Christmas Concert, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday December 4th	9:00 am 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Property Committee, <i>Library</i> Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday December 5th	6:00 pm	Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Wednesday December 6th	7:00 pm	Advent Vespers, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday December 7th	12:00 pm 1:30 pm 7:30 pm	Advent Lunch w/ Heike, <i>Library</i> Friendly Society Meeting Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday December 9th	9:00 am	Transition Team, <i>Library</i>
Sunday December 10th	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 4:00 pm 6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship-Membership Sunday, <i>Sanctuary</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Chapel</i> Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group



**Sunday
Dec. 3rd
at 4pm**

Christmas Concert

**Come celebrate the Holidays
with the Chancel Choir and
The Friendly Chimers as we perform
Carols and songs of the season.**



**The Congregational
Church of Needham**

1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts 02492