



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

November 29, 2015

Theme: The Season of Advent



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 29, 2015

10:00am

Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians. Pre-K childcare begins in the nursery at 10 am. Grades 9-12 may stay in the Sanctuary with their parents. Grades K-8 will be dismissed to the chapel.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

K.M. Abraham

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

People: We wait filled with hope,

Leader: Knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

People: We wait anticipating your peace,

Leader: Believing that one day it will fill our world.

People: We wait embracing your love,

Leader: May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.

People: We wait with joy,

Leader: Bathing our spirits in the expectation of your birth.

People: Lord we wait! Come soon and fill us with your life.

***OPENING HYMN # 103** (*Red Hymnal*)

**Come, Thou
Long-Expected Jesus**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**God beyond time and space,
May we take this moment of worship and bless it.
May the grace experienced in this place
be multiplied to overflowing
so that your whole world sees the light of your love.
God of new surprises,
take each of us here, and bless us.
Create in us clean hearts,
refresh our spirits,
and transform our whole beings,
until we reflect your love and compassion through and
through.
In the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, hear us as we pray ...**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debt, debtors)

Prayer Response

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING
(Led by members of our 2016 Confirmation Class)**

Advent Liturgy

Today we celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent, and we join with Christians around the world to light the Candle of Hope. We wait with hope in anticipation for God's love to be revealed. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. As we light the first candle, the candle of hope, we dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Prayer: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children.

CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 (*Black Hymnal*) **We Are Marching In
The Light Of God**

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 21: 25-36 NT, p. 81

SERMON "Advent Hope"
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) # 102 (*Black Hymnal*) **O How Shall I Receive You**

MORNING PRAYER

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

**Doxology*

**Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN #117 (*Black Hymnal*)
Heads,**

Lift Up Your

O Mighty Gates

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**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: K.M. Abraham

Deacons: Stephanie Oddleifson, Craig Morrison

Altar Guild: Jean Veigas

Ushers: Todd Barth, Dave Johnson, Janet Rubenstein

Flowers: Janet Rubenstein

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

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.

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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
Valerie Becker, Music Director
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
Madelyn Downer, Director of Children &
Youth Ministries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Update: Thank you to everyone who has sent their pledges in. We currently have \$289,557 in pledges. Your pledges fund all of our programs, staff, and the upkeep of our buildings. We are seeking \$ 450,000 in pledges to fund our 2016 budget which means that we are at 64% of our goal. If you have not yet sent in your pledge please do so as soon as possible either by filling out a form and mailing it or dropping it off in the Narthex, calling the office at 781-444-2510 or email to pledge@needhamucc.org. Thank you.

Advent Meditation and Labyrinth Walk: The Holiday Season is upon us, and if we are not busy already, we shall be as we prepare for Christmas. If you are seeking a more meditative approach to the Advent Seasons, join Rev. Heike for a time of prayer, meditation, and reflection on the four Monday evenings during the Advent seasons in Fellowship Hall. ***We will meet from 7 to 8 pm on 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21.***

Friendly Society: You're invited (& your spouse &/or friend) to Friendly Society's Christmas Luncheon with a musical program featuring our cancel choir bass Crosby Goshgarian. ***Wednesday 12/2, noon***, 1180 GPA. Tickets (\$10/person) will be on sale after church on 11/15, 22, 29. Contact Joanne Seiden w/ questions (jseiden@basiclink.com, 781-449-6535).

Advent Luncheons: Please join us in the dining room at 1180 GPA on the following Thursdays, ***December 3rd, 10th, and 17th*** for soup, delicious bread, dessert, fellowship and conversation. All are welcome to attend!

You are invited to join in the Advent Workshop!: ***Saturday, December 5th, 3:00 – 5:00 pm.*** Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to come and immerse themselves in this time of expectant waiting! This year's workshop will feature many stations to help us prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth! The stations include: Winter Wonderland (Gingerbread and icing station); Advent Wreaths (paper and greenery); Christmas Ornaments; Christmas Cards; Christmas Origami; Christmas Sand Art. This program is hosted by the Christian Education committee, there is no cost to participate in this fellowship offering. If you would like to volunteer to help run a station, please email Maddie at youth@needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510 x 104.

Winter Mosaic: He Ye! Hear Ye! Come join us for "A Winter Mosaic". We hope that you will put ***December 6th at 4pm*** down on your calendar. Our Chancel Choir along with the The Friendly Chimers will perform selections appropriate to the season. A light reception will follow. Anyone who wishes to make a donation to help with this concert can contact Danielle in the church office or send the donation to the church with "Winter Concert Donation" in the memo line. We hope to see many of you at our concert! Valerie J. Becker.

Adult Bible Study, Sunday's @ 11:30 Conference Room: Small group discussion based on reading a few chapters of the Bible at a time. We meet immediately after church, from 11:30 to 12:30 in the reception room. This fall we will continue our study of the minor prophets. Take a look at how God is still speaking to us, even in stories from thousands of years ago! This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us. For more information, contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com.

Flower Committee: The Flower Committee is looking for new members to coordinate altar flower arrangements throughout the year and decorate the church for the Christmas and Easter seasons. Each of us is responsible for one month for the altar flowers as well as participating in the holiday decorations to make the church festive and inviting. If interested, please contact Debbie Wentworth at 781-444-8382. The Christmas season is approaching... don't miss out on the festivities.

Request for Altar Guild Volunteers: The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. High school students are welcome to join. Please contact Carol Miller at millerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Boiler Replacement Campaign: Make a tax deductible contribution towards the efforts for energy efficiency in our church at 1154 Great Plain Ave. With the addition of our 3 new boilers, we change our heat efficiency from 60% to 96%. With our other energy saving efforts, we hope to reduce our carbon footprint 25% by 2020! We have the potential to save \$10,000- \$15,000 each year! Any contributions may be earmarked for the "Boiler Replacement Campaign". If your employer has a matching program, please consider requesting a contribution match from them. Send your contribution to Danielle in the church office.

The Furniture Team needs your help: The church has lots of wonderful new space to furnish and put to work for church programs. Monetary and in-kind donations are welcome: **MOST WANTED FURNITURE LIST:** Two large conference tables and chairs, Nichols & Stone college arm chairs, Pair of modern upholstered chairs, Pair of traditional upholstered chairs, Loveseat, FIVE 60" round folding tables. Items must be in condition. Upholstered pieces can be in need of slipcovers. Please contact Judi Stewart at jmgstewart@verizon.net with photos and dimensions or call 781-449-3999. The furniture team would like to look at all furniture prior to donation.

LED Bulb Donations to Continue: If you are out shopping for energy efficient LED bulbs for your home, please consider purchasing one or two for the church. Please leave bulbs in the donation box located near the mailboxes in the church office. Check out the EMT bulletin board for more information about LED bulbs.

Chairs! Chairs! Chairs!: Now that the chapel renovation is completed, we need to give everyone a lovely place to sit. Twelve chairs have already been

purchased through the generosity of the Chapel Committee and twelve more are on order. Now we need your help to reach the goal of sixty more chairs. You may purchase one for \$175 which can include a plaque denoting a memorial or tribute. This is a fine way to honor a family member, celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. Other monetary donations are welcome and will be applied to additional chairs. Checks and inscriptions can be sent to the church office. Thank you, The Chapel Committee

Thermostat Notice: We are currently testing the new heating system. Please do not touch any of the thermostats in the building especially in the Sanctuary.

Bible Village: The Sunday School program is looking for intergenerational volunteer teachers! Parents, high school and college students, sage church members, curious and fun people who can show our kids how much God loves them by leading a Bible Village workshop—all are invited to teach! We provide all of the materials and the lessons beforehand. Lessons are straightforward and easy to teach—and our kids are so much fun! Sign-up at: www.tinyurl.com/ChildrenYouthSignUp

Noah's Ark Preschool: Noah's Ark Preschool is in the process of enrolling children for the 2016-2017 school year! We offer priority enrollment to members of the Congregational Church of Needham, as availability exists, now through November 20th. We invite you to call us to receive information about our program and to schedule a time to come in for a tour!

CALENDAR November 29th—December 13th

Sunday, Nov. 29th Advent	10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, Nov. 30th	8:45 am 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Advent meditation and Labyrinth Walk, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
Tuesday, Dec. 1st	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl, <i>1180 GPA</i> Community Dinner, <i>1154 GPA</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wed., Dec. 2nd	11:30 am 7:00 pm	Friendly Christmas Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Youth Committee
Thursday, Dec. 3rd	10:30 am 7:30 pm	Advent Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday, Dec. 5th	3:00 pm	Advent Workshop, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
Sunday, Dec. 6th	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am 4:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Pageant Sign Up Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Winter Mosaic Concert, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, Dec. 7th	8:30 am 7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Labyrinth Meditation, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, Dec. 8th	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, Dec. 10th	10:30 am 7:30 pm	Advent Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, Dec. 13th	10:00 am 11:30 am 11:40 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Pageant Rehearsal Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> The Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group