



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

November 30, 2014

Theme: Hope



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 30, 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: Theater; Grades 2-3: Games; Grades 4-5: Art*

PRELUDE

The Ash Grove
arr. David Lasky (B. 1957)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

K.M. Abraham

Leader: Let us light the candles of faith.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of hope, where despair stands guard.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of peace, for tempest-tossed days.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of love to inspire our day.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of joy to lift our spirits.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

***OPENING HYMN #104 (Black Hymnal)**

**We Hail You,
God's Anointed**

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**Like a tune in our heads, that won't let up,
Like a long-lost friend who finds us,
Like a healing we cannot explain,
Like the words of a prayer that binds us,
Like hope that won't bow to despair,
Lord Jesus, come again, to remind us
That we are your people.
Help us to prepare for your arrival, as we pray...**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING
(Led by members of the 2015 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 dismissed to Bible Village during hymn)

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

ANTHEM

Look at the World
John Rutter (b. 1945)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8: 24-25

p.148

SERMON

“Where Are You God: Finding Hope Today”
Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) # 103 (Pilgrim) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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

Cantique de Jean Racine
Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

**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 #117 (Black Hymnal)**

**Lift Up Your Heads,
O Mighty Gates**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go in Peace
tune: Ocean Park

POSTLUDE

Caprice en forme de valse
Paul Bonneau (1918-1995)
Emily Verschoor-Kirss, saxophone

A special thank you to Emily Verschoor-Kirss for sharing her 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: K.M. Abraham

Deacons: Fabienne Madsen, Carol Oberle

Ushers: Frank Arren, Todd Barth, Dave Johnson, Jan Rubenstein

Altar Guild: Sherrill Salisbury

Flowers: Janet Rubenstein

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given today to the Glory of God and in celebration of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Dr. Szeya and Grace Yeh by their 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 contact the office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510.

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, 11:30 am, 1180 Great Plain. Join Friendly Society members and any church women in a special time of sharing—a delicious, free luncheon and show and tell (optional) of favorite Christmas decorations that you can bring. All you need to do is let Patty Stewart know by December 10 that you're coming so she will know how much food to prepare. Park in our church parking lot and walk between buildings to 1180 GP. Look for the Christmas tree in the bay window! Questions can be directed to Doris Cook, Margie Daganhardt, Joan Dimond, Barbara Lovely, Patty Stewart or Joanne Seiden.

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.

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.

Christmas Pageant: Preparations for our Christmas Pageant, our biggest event

of the year, 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!

Empty and clean 1 or 2 liter plastic bottles needed! Please drop off in Rev. Jamie's office. These will be used to make lanterns during the Advent Workshop that the kids will use to parade down to the Christmas Tree Lighting in the Town Common.

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

CALENDAR November 30th — December 11th

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| 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, <i>Conference Room</i> 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> |
| Saturday, Dec. 6th | 3:00 pm | Advent Workshop, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> |
| Sunday, Dec. 7th | 9:00 am 10:00am 11:30am 4:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Holiday Concert, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Christmas Movie Night Senior High Youth Group Movie Night |
| Monday, Dec. 8th | 9:00 am | Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> |
| Wed., Dec. 10th | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting, <i>Library</i> |
| Thursday, Dec. 11th | 10:30am 12:00pm 7:30 pm | Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Advent Lunch, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir, <i>Choir Room</i> |

Paul Bonneau, “Caprice en forme de valse” (1950)

Paul Bonneau was a French composer who wrote four works for the concert saxophone. As expected, this piece in particular was written for Marcel Mule; Mule was a virtuosic French saxophonist for whom much of early saxophone literature was composed. Caprice is the only unaccompanied piece on this program. As such, it involves a great deal more freedom to the individual performer, and although the score does not indicate specific metronome markings or rubato, it is often interpreted in a more liberated style. The piece is in a spritely 3/8, and, as the title suggests, it is a waltz form. It explores many interesting ways to use a solo, unaccompanied saxophone in order to create an expansive texture of sound. Caprice is a fairly demanding work in that it can be physically taxing on the performer, who essentially has no extended pauses where a piano interlude might take place. Nonetheless, is it a pure expression of musicality and exhibits that a saxophone is capable of inhabiting more than one line even if the true texture remains monophonic.