



December 1, 2013

Theme: Family

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, December 1, 2013

10:00am

*Childcare for infants and toddlers is available downstairs.
Preschoolers and grades 7-12 meet for class downstairs at 10am.
Grades K-6 go directly to chapel at 10:00am and will join their families in worship for communion.*

PRELUDE

Aria
Charles Callahan (b. 1950)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jackie Allen

- 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 among us Holy One, as we sing.**

***OPENING HYMN #104** (NCH) We Hail You, God's Anointed

OPENING PRAYER

Jackie Allen

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 (debts & debtors)

Prayer Response

Savior of the Nations, Come
Martin Luther (1483-1546)

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

(Led by members of the 2014 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.

ANTHEM

Look at the World
John Rutter (b. 1945)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 3: 31-35

NT, p. 36

SERMON

“Biblical Family Values”

Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) # **116** (*NCH*)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
verse 1

OFFERTORY

Susan Cartmell

Concerns and Celebrations

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

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Prayer Response

**Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you Lord!**

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Hymns for the Bread & Cup:

Hymn # 102 O How shall I receive You

Hymn # 122 Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith. Increase our love for one another. Send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN #117 (NCH)**

**Lift Up Your Heads
O Mighty Gates**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Go in Peace
Ocean Park*

POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
Charles Callahan (b. 1950)

****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: Jackie Allen

Deacons: Lorri Lofvers, Connie Kaufman

Communion: Tim Barber, Diana Conroy, Tom Mollerus, Fred
Moder

Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel, Robert
Kennedy

Altar Guild: Carol Miller

Flowers Delivery: Martha Lamb

*The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in
loving memory of William McGrath by Carol and Paul Brown*

Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month in our church. Along with Baptism, it is one of two sacraments in the United Church of Christ.

At Holy Communion we remember that Jesus ate with his disciples on the last night before he died. In that upper room he transformed the Passover meal something new. As he broke the bread that night he reminded them that it was a symbol for his own body which was broken for all of us. As he lifted the cup of wine he told them that it was a symbol of the covenant- which had come from Abraham and Moses - between us and God.

So when we eat the bread and dip it into the cup we remember that God loved us so much that God sent Jesus. Through Christ we came to know God even better. At this table, through faith, we believe Christ joins us and comes to be our host.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome at this table. We offer children instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion in the second grade. We leave it to families to decide if their children will take the communion, but everyone is welcome at any age. If your child will not be taking communion but would like a short blessing, please tell one of the ministers.

When you come forward the minister will give you the bread and say – “The Bread of Heaven for you”. Many people respond saying, “Amen” or “Thanks be to God”. Dip the bread into the cup of grape juice. As you do, the Deacon will say, “The cup of salvation for you.” Again you may respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.” You are encouraged to eat the bread soaked in the juice right away, and then return to your seat down the side aisle.

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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! December 1st- GOD IN AMERICA: "Soul of a Nation" – Episode 5 explores the post-World War II era, when rising evangelist Billy Graham tried to inspire a religious revival that fused faith with patriotism in a Cold War battle with "godless communism," and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. emerged as a modern-day prophet, calling upon the nation to honor both biblical teachings and the founders' democratic ideals of equal justice.

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.

The Giving Tree continues! The Senior High Youth Group's Giving Tree is in the hall outside the chapel. It is now full of ornaments representing families in need who are assisted by the Elizabeth Stone House in Jamaica Plain.

Giving Tree instructions

1. Pick an ornament from the tree and take home with you. The front and back of the ornament has information about the mom or child you will be shopping for, including age, gender, clothing sizes, favorite color, and gift ideas.
2. Go shopping and pick up at least 2-3 gifts for the person you have chosen.
3. Attach ornament to the gifts and drop off (under the Giving Tree) unwrapped but in a bag, on or before December 15th.

Bible Study - 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 cweitzel@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.

Advent Workshop: Sat, Dec 7, 3-5pm

Create edible winter creatures, sandart masterpieces, Christmas cards, advent wreaths and unique ornaments. Enjoy caroling and cookies, too! Admission: \$10/family.

Babysitting Fundraiser – Sat., Dec. 14th, 10am-4pm

The Senior High Youth Group will babysit kids ages 3 and up at church while you shop or enjoy an afternoon off! \$20 for first kid, \$10 for additional kids. Includes lunch, snacks, games, crafts, and a special showing of the brand new Christmas VeggieTales movie! More info and registration forms at www.needhamucc.org/babysitting

FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, DEC 11TH - Join us for Friendly Society's festive holiday luncheon on Wednesday, Dec 11th. Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale after church services at coffee hours on Dec 1st and 8th. Tickets must be purchased by Dec 9th.

Luncheon will be served at noon and Heike will add to the holiday cheer by playing carols on her flute. All women of the church are encouraged to attend and bring a friend as well.

December 15, 2013 - The Rev. Dr. Brita Gill-Austern presents: Giving the Gifts that Matter: Hope, Faith and Love, 11:30am

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.

Christmas Caroling: Sun, Dec 22, 4-6pm

For all ages! Meet at church at 4pm to carol at 3 nursing homes and 1 Needham neighborhood, then back to church for cookies and cocoa!

Christmas Pageant:

Preparations for our Christmas Pageant, our biggest event of the year, are now underway. This year's pageant will feature more than 100 costumed performers! Be sure to sign-up for a part in the pageant by December 8th. Casting sheets are available here at www.needhamucc.org/pageant and on the Christmas Bulletin Board in the office hallway of the church. We have lots of space for participants of all ages, from kids to adults.

- **Sunday, December 8th: Casting Sheets Due**
- **Sunday, December 15th , 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)**
- **Sunday, December 22nd, 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)**
- **Tuesday, December 24th, 2-4pm: Dress rehearsal (snacks included)**
- **Tuesday, December 24th, 4-5pm: Performance**

CALENDAR December 1st – December 8th

Sunday December 1st	9:00am 9:15am 10am 11:30am 12pm 4pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study <i>Reception Room</i> God in America, 5 th 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> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Chancel Choir Concert Rehearsal, <i>Choir Rm</i>
Monday December 2nd	9am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>

Tuesday December 3rd	10am 6pm 7pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>Conference Room</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacons, <i>Library</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Chapel</i>
Thursday December 5th	9am 12pm	Bible Study <i>Reception Room</i> Advent Lunch with Heike, <i>Library</i>
Saturday December 6th	3pm	Advent Workshop, <i>Fellowship and Linden Halls</i>
Sunday December 8th	9:00am 9:15am 10am 11:30am 12pm 5pm 7pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study <i>Reception Room</i> God in America, Episode 6, <i>Linden Hall</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Rm</i> Junior High Youth Group Movie Night Senior High Youth Group Movie Night
Monday December 9th	9am 7:30pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Rm</i> Immigration Task Force, <i>Library</i>