



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

December 13, 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, December 13, 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**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing  
*Felix Mendelsson Arr. Larsen*

*Friendly Chimers under the Direction of Nancy St. Laurent*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rob Dunlavey

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 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*

Four Fold Amen

*Roland M Carter (b. 1942)*

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

**Advent Liturgy**

We have lit two candles—for hope, and for peace. Today we light the third candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a

special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief of despair, stronger than death. We love, because God loves us.

### **Lighting the Candle of Love**

**Prayer: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our love with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ's love. Amen.**

### **TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children.*

### **CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 (NCH)**

**We Are Marching In  
The Light Of God**

### **ANTHEM**

**On This Day, Earth Resounds**  
Personat Hodie  
*from Piaae Cantilones, 1582 Arr. Robert Sieving*

*Accompaniment by members of Friendly Chimers  
Betty Blume, Jeannie Martin, and Carol Miller*

### **SCRIPTURE**

"Magnificat"

**A Responsive Reading based on Luke 1:47-55**

**Leader:** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of this servant.

**People:** Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me. Holy is God's name.

**Leader:** God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of

their hearts.

**People: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly.**

Leader: God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich  
away empty.

**People: Has the revolution happened, God? Did we miss it? How  
can we experience the Christmas season with Mary's  
exuberance?**

Leader: Good Lord, deliver us from the pressures of this season. Set our  
soul's free to magnify your name.

**People: Receive our despair born of tragedy and ill will that daily  
bombards us. And turn that despair into action.**

Leader: From the feeling of inadequacy and helplessness; good Lord,  
deliver us.

**People: To spontaneity, and some small sharing; to joy in silly things  
and immoderate laughter, to a deeper commitment that  
hope and love can change the world**

**All: Good Lord, we beg of you, bring us close!**

**CHORAL RESPONSE #123 (NCH)**

**Mary, Woman of Promise**  
*verses 3 and 4*

**Mary, morning star of justice; mirror of the Radiant Light:  
In the shadows of life's journey, be a beacon for our sight.**

**Mary, model of compassion; wounded by your offspring's  
pain;  
When our hearts are torn by sorrow, teach us how to love  
again.**

**SERMON**

**"Mary, Mary, Quite the Revolutionary"**  
Rev. Judy Brain

**HYMN (seated) #119 (NCH)**

**My Soul Gives Glory to My God**

**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*

**Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day**

*John Gardner*

*\*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 # 140 (PH)**

**What Child is This,**

**Who, Laid to Rest**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Sy Miller and Jill Jackson*

## POSTLUDE

Praise to God  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)*

*We welcome Sangyoung Kim as our Interim Organist and Pianist.*

***\*You are invited to stand.***

*NCH stands for New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal) and PH stands for Pilgrim Hymnal (Red Hymnal).*

*Worship Leader:* Rob Dunlavey

*Deacons:* Susan Lively, Sunu Yeh

*Altar Guild:* Mary Barber

*Ushers:* Alex Cullen, Frank Luppino, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser

*Flowers:* Connie Kaufman

*Flower Delivery:* Carol Brown

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Larry Meehan from the Baker and Brennan families.*

*The flowers in the Narthex are given in loving memory of Thomas E. Richter.*

- 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](http://www.needhamucc.org), our church website.



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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister  
Valerie Becker, Music Director  
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus  
Sangyoung Kim, Interim Organist and Pianist

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 \$305,327.00 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 67% 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](mailto:pledge@needhamucc.org). Thank you.

**Advent Meditation and Labyrinth Walk—Monday December 14, 7pm:** 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 12/14, and 12/21.***

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

**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](mailto:dormouse99@gmail.com).

**Guatemala Partner Family Letters Due December 15:** Partner-Family Letters for the church's upcoming February delegation to Guatemala are due DECEMBER 15TH, to allow time for our volunteer translators to 'work their magic' of helping church families communicate with their families in Santa María Tzejá. Please do your part by getting your letter in on time. Letters should be sent to: [Davebjohnson@verizon.net](mailto:Davebjohnson@verizon.net). Thank you.

**Calendars for a Cause:** 2016 calendars with beautiful pictures taken by human rights observers in Guatemala are available each Sunday in December during Coffee Hour at the Guatemala table. Proceeds from the sales will benefit education, health care, and community development in our partner community, Santa Maria Tzeja. The price is \$18 per calendar, or two for \$30.

**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.

**Need a Gift for Someone who has Everything? Or for a teacher?:** Make a donation to benefit education in Santa Maria Tzeja and receive a beautiful donor card honoring someone special in your child's life. Your donation will help support students who wish to continue in school but whose families cannot afford the increased Computer Center fee of \$35/year to remain in middle school. The village had to raise the student fee to cover the increased costs to maintain the Computer Center. For more information, or to make a donation in any amount and receive a donor gift card, come to Guatemala table in Fellowship Hall after worship or contact Val Kistler at [valk228@gmail.com](mailto:valk228@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 December 13th—December 27th

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Sunday, Dec. 13th                             | 10:00 am<br>11:30 am<br><br>11:40 am<br>4:00 pm            | Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Pageant Rehearsal<br>Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i><br>The Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Junior and Senior High Youth Group                         |
| Monday, Dec. 14th                             | 8:30 am<br>7:00 pm   | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i><br>Labyrinth Meditation, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>   |
| Tuesday, Dec. 15th                            | 7:00 pm  | Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>  |
| Wed., Dec. 16th                               | 7:30 pm  | Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>  |
| Thursday, Dec. 17th                           | 12:00 pm<br>7:30 pm  | Advent Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i><br>Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>   |
| Sunday, Dec. 20th                             | 8:15 am<br>10:00 am<br>11:30 am<br><br>11:40 am<br>5:00 pm | Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i><br>Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i><br>Pageant Rehearsal<br>Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Caroling, <i>See Maddie</i> |
| Monday, Dec. 21st                             | 8:30 am<br>7:00 pm   | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i><br>Labyrinth Meditation, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>   |
| Thursday, Dec. 24th                           | 2:00 pm<br>4:00 pm<br>9:00 pm                              | Pageant Rehearsal<br>Worship and Pageant, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Christmas Eve Service, <i>Sanctuary</i>   |
| Friday, Dec. 25th<br><br><b>Christmas Day</b> |  | Office Closed   |
| Sunday, Dec. 27th                             | 10:00 am<br>11:30 am                                       | Worship Service/Hymn Sing, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>  |