



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

December 14, 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, December 14, 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: Cooking; Grades 2-3: Games; Grades 4-5: Art*

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger
Still, Still, Still
O Come, All Ye Faithful
arr. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

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 #117 (Red Hymnal) Angels, from the Realms
of Glory**

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

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
J.S. Bach

ANTHEM

Peace, Peace
Rick and Sylvia Powell, arr. Fred Bock (1939-1998)
Joyful Noise, Hallelujah, and Shepherd's Staff Choirs
Ellen Dunlavey, flute
Dave Darmofal, piano

TIME FOR CHILDREN

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING
(Led by members of the 2015 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 or despair, stronger than death. We love, because God loves us.

Lighting the Candle of Love

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.

(Children dismissed to Bible Village during hymn)

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

p.54

SERMON

“Where Are You God: A Sermon on Service”
Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) #140 (Red Hymnal)

**What Child is This, Who,
Laid to Rest**

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

Child of the Stable's Secret Birth
Thomas Hewitt Jones (b. 1985)
Brandon Milardo, tenor
Crosby Goshgarian, bass

**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 #136 (Red Hymnal) On This Day Earth Shall Ring**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You
Amy Beach (1867-1944)

POSTLUDE

From Heaven High to Earth I Come
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**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: Peter Atallah, Stephanie Oddleifson

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

Altar Guild: Lee McNally

Flowers: Connie Kaufman

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marie Elaine Grissom from Sherrill Salisbury.

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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

Today: Seeds of Freedom: Liberating Education in Guatemala; Book presentation and signing by Clark Taylor, author ***Sunday, December 14, 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel.*** 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. Light refreshments will be served.

Friendly Society Christmas Luncheon, Linden Hall: Wednesday, December 17, 11:30 am. 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. Questions can be Patty Stewart at pattys-place@hotmail.com or 339-222-2784.

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.

Christmas Pageant: Preparations for our Christmas Pageant, are now underway. Rev. Jamie will again be directing this year's pageant which features more than 100 costumed performers! There are still parts available; please contact Rev. Jamie to sign up.

Sunday, December 14th :11:30am-12pm: Pageant Lunch, Linden Hall; 12-2pm: Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Sunday, December 21st: 11:30am-12pm: Pageant Lunch, Linden Hall; 12-2pm: Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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!

Partner Family Letters Due January 4: As the February 2015 delegation to Guatemala plans for its Feb. 11-22 trip, it is once again time for partner families to write a letter to their family in the village. Please find a little quiet time during the holidays to write your partner-family letter and e-mail it to: DaveBJohnson@verizon.net. Letters are due by Sunday, January 4, to allow translation in time for the delegation's departure. If you want to learn more about becoming a partner family, stop by the Guatemala table during Coffee Hour.

Alternative Gifts and Calendars to Benefit Guatemala: Make a difference this holiday season by choosing an 'alternative' gift for family, friends, or a teacher. Please stop by the Guatemala table during Coffee Hour to learn about the options. Our partner village of Santa Maria Tzeja continues to educate its youth, with Needham's support for 15 high school scholarships per year, along with support for middle school teachers' salaries. You'll receive a card to announce your gift to the special person you want to honor. Also check out the colorful Guatemalan calendars (\$18) for yourself or as a gift.

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

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Healing Service

Tuesday
December 16
7:00p.m.



Not everyone is looking forward to a very merry Christmas. Some people have a diagnosis, a longstanding illness, a family problem, a professional setback. Rev. Susan will speak. There will be simple hymns and candle lighting.

CALENDAR December 14th — December 28th

Sunday, Dec. 14th	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00am 10:30am 11:30am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise, Hallelujah, Shepherd's Staff Combined Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Seeds of Freedom Guatemala Program, <i>Chapel</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Pageant Rehearsal Junior High Youth Group Christmas Party Senior High Youth Group Christmas Party
Monday, Dec. 15th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Tuesday, Dec.16th	7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
Wed. Dec. 17th	11:30am 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Friendly Society Luncheon, <i>Linden Hall</i> Outreach Committee Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, Dec.18th	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>
Sunday, Dec. 21st	8:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 4:00 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Linden Hall</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> All Church Christmas Caroling
Monday, Dec. 22nd	10:00am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
Wed. Dec. 24th	2:00 pm 4:00 pm 9:00 pm 10:00pm	Pageant Rehearsal Christmas Worship w/ Pageant, <i>Sanctuary</i> Christmas Candlelight Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Youth Group Reunion Gathering, <i>Reception Rm</i>
Thursday, Dec. 25th		Office Closed
Friday, Dec. 26th		Office Closed
Sunday, Dec. 28th	9:00 am 11:30am 12:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Group Reunion Potluck, <i>Caryl and Dave Johnson's Home</i>