



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

December 20, 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 20, 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**

Voluntary in C Major  
*George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Craig Morrison

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 # 132 (PH)**

**O Come, All Ye**

**Faithful**

**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 #140 (PH)*

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

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

**Advent Liturgy**

We have lit three candles— for hope, for peace, and for love. Today we light the fourth candle— the candle of joy. This should be an easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, and the music. But how often do we let our preparations push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like our bodies, it needs to be exercised. So, today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it within us. All we need to do is own it and share our joy.

**Lighting the Candle of Joy**

**Prayer: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us; you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us your creative power of hope. Teach us that peace comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of love that cannot be contained, but must be shared. 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 (NCH)**

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

**ANTHEM**

In Winter  
*Victor C. Johnson (b.1987)*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 1: 39-46

NT, p. 54

**SERMON**

“Advent Joy”  
Heike Werder

**HYMN (seated) See Insert**

**We Light the Advent Candles**  
*Gracia Grindal (1943-)*

## **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*

“Gloria” from *Christmas Cantata*  
*Daniel Pinkham (1923 - 2006)*

Translation    Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those of good will.

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves. Alleluia!

*\*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 # 130 (PH) Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Let There Be Peace on Earth  
*Sy Miller & Jill Jackson*

**POSTLUDE**

*\*You are invited to stand.*

*NCH stands for New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal) and PH stands for Pilgrim Hymnal (Red 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](http://www.needhamucc.org), our church website.

*Worship Leader:* Craig Morrison

*Deacons:* Stephanie Oddleifson, Mary Lou Hughes

*Altar Guild:* Val Kistler

*Ushers:* Mike Normile, Janet Jankowiak, Bob Everts, Jim Conroy

*Flowers:* Connie Kaufman

*Flower Delivery:* Martha Lamb

*The Congregational Church of Needham  
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Needham, Massachusetts 02492  
Telephone 781-444-2510  
E-mail: [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)  
[www.needhamucc.org](http://www.needhamucc.org)*

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

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



**The Christmas Flowers on the Altar are**

Given in loving memory of Ralph Leader and Beatrice  
Hopkins by The Leader/Hoffmeister Families

Given in loving memory of Of the Edman, Roadman and  
Hughes families by Bill and Mary Lou Hughes

Given in loving memory of Edward Cook and  
Emily & George Drescher by Doris Cook

Given in loving memory of Rudolph & Alma Stam and  
Edwin & Dorothy Campbell by Nancy, Peter, Brian &  
Chris Stam

Given in loving memory of Tom Richter

Given in loving memory of Virginia Marie Floyd  
by Janet Floyd Rubenstein

Given in loving memory of Loved Ones  
by Connie Kaufman

Given in loving memory of John Brennan  
by The Brennan Family





**The Christmas Flowers on the Altar are**

Given in loving memory of Leanne Horton  
by Virgil & Claudette Horton

Given in loving memory of Joseph Cotton, Billy Cotton,  
Bill and Edna Doughman by The Cotton's

Given in loving memory of Jamie Walsh  
by Carol & Paul Brown

Given in loving memory of Alan Stuart Lanka  
by Gretchen Lanka Allen

Given in loving memory of Jan Allen  
by Ken, Gretchen, Lina and Mia Allen

Given in loving memory of Stuart and Emily Campbell  
by Blair and Debbie Wentworth

Given in loving memory of Loved Ones  
by Donald and Karin MacPhee

Given in loving memory of The Edman, Roadman and  
Hughes Families. by Joseph & Mary Lou Hughes

Given in loving memory of In Honor of Doris  
Cook by The Brand Family





## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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).

**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 12/21.***

**Saxophone Recital:** On January 3rd at 12:00pm in the Sanctuary, Emily Verschoor-Kirss and Valerie Becker will jointly present a recital of classical saxophone repertoire with piano. The program will include works by Bach, Alexander Glazounov, Robert Muczynski, and Karel Husa. Emily is currently pursuing a Masters of Music degree in saxophone performance at LSU. All are welcome!

**Thank you, thank you, thank you** for chapel chairs! Due to the generosity of our members, we have reached our goal and the final chair order has been submitted. The Chapel Committee is grateful to all of the donors.

**Stewardship Update:** Thank you to everyone who has sent their pledges in. We currently have \$313,027 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 69% 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.

**Guatemala Partner Family Letters Due NOW:** Partner-Family Letters for the church's upcoming February delegation to Guatemala were 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. Letters should be sent ASAP to: [Davebjohnson@verizon.net](mailto:Davebjohnson@verizon.net). Thank you.

**Request for Altar Guild Volunteers:** The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. High school students are welcome to join. Please contact Carol Miller at [millercc291@verizon.net](mailto:millercc291@verizon.net) for more information.

**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.

**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.

**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)

*"This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ."*



## CALENDAR December 20th—January 3rd

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 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<br><br><b>Christmas Eve</b>  | 2:00 pm<br>4:00 pm<br>9:00 pm                                      | Office Closed<br>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<br>11:40 am                                   | Worship Service/Hymn Sing, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i><br>Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i>   |
| Friday, January 1st<br><br><b>New Year's Day</b> |  | Office Closed  |
| Sunday, January 3rd                              | 10:00 am<br>11:30 am<br>11:40 am<br>12:00 pm<br>5:30 pm<br>7:00 pm | Worship Service/Hymn Sing, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i><br>Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Saxophone Recital, <i>Sanctuary</i><br>Youth Group Board Game Night<br>Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i> |

## We Light the Advent Candles 175

N.C. Eb Bb7 Eb Eb G Fm7 Bb Eb

1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,  
 2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.  
 3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word,  
 4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way,  
 5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come,

Eb7 Ab Dm7(b5) Eb Eb Eb Fm7 Bb Bb7 Eb

to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,  
 We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn,  
 it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord,  
 re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day,  
 pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room,

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