



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

December 21, 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 21, 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: Art; Grades 2-3: Cooking; Grades 4-5: Games*

**PRELUDE**

Coventry Carol  
*traditional English carol arr. Mychal Gendron*  
Bruce Goody, flute  
Jonathan Moretz, guitar

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Ding Dong! Merrily on High  
*arr. Charles Wood*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

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 #132** (*Red Hymnal*)

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*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*

What Child is This?  
*arr. Mychal Gendron*

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING**  
**(Led by members of the 2015 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 the peace that 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.

*(Children dismissed to Bible Village during hymn)*

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

**ANTHEM**

The Lamb  
*John Tavener*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Matthew 2: 1-12 New Testament p. 1

**SERMON**

“Finding Hope for a Lifetime”  
Susan Cartmell

**HYMN (seated) #128** (*Red Hymnal*) **In the Bleak Midwinter**

**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*

There is Faint Music  
*Dan Forrest*  
Dave Darmofal, piano

*\*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 #130** (*Red Hymnal*)

**Joy to the World**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

A Christmas Blessing  
*Philip Stopford (b. 1977)*

**POSTLUDE**

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen  
*arr. Mychal Gendron*

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

*Deacons:* Craig Morrison, Sunu Yeh

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

*Altar Guild:* Sherrill Salisbury

*Flowers:* Connie Kaufman

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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**

**Faith Circle Book Club:** The Faith Circle Book Club meets **Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Reception Room**. The group is in the process of selecting a new book for January. Contact Christine Weitzel (cweitzel@verizon.net) or Reverend Susan Cartmell (revsusan@needhamucc.org) to join the group or for more information.

**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 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!

**Family Promise Metrowest Support Week Dec. 29- Jan. 4-**No doubt this is a very busy time of year, but the week after Christmas can be a wonderful time to volunteer with family and friends. There are still plenty of time slots and days available. Please contact Susan Kirk [susanckirk@comcast.net](mailto:susanckirk@comcast.net) or Heidi Wiesel [heidi.wiesel@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.wiesel@gmail.com) for more information or <http://mihn.pbworks.com/w/page/8216398/Items%20Needed> to donate to the Family Promise WISH LIST. Thank you.

**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](mailto: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.

**Friendly Society January 8, 1:30:** Join Friendly Society members for a book discussion on January 8th at 1:30. The discussion will be led by Gail Browne. Questions can be directed to any of the steering committee members; Doris Cook, Margie Dagenhardt, Joan Dimond, Barbara Lovely, Joanne Seiden or Pat-

ty Stewart.

**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

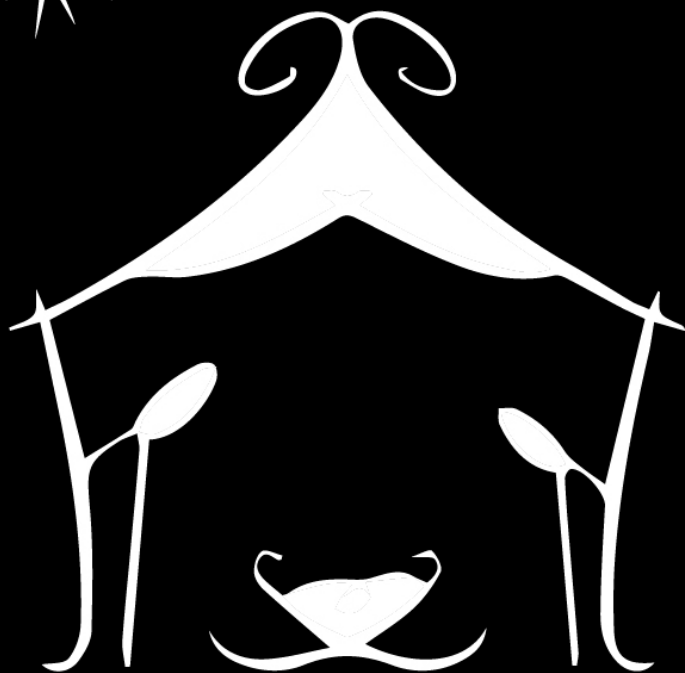
Each choir will sing for the congregation 4-5 times throughout the year, culminating with Youth Sunday on June 7.

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

**Family Promise Metrowest:** On November 29, the Wellesley Village Church hosted a delightful concert for the benefit of Family Promise Metrowest. Please join us this season in thanking the following Needham businesses for supporting this event and Family Promise Metrowest through their generous donations—Center Automotive, The Center Café, Closet Exchange, The Farmhouse, Hillcrest Gardens, Home Trends and Needham Music. Heidi Wiesel and Susan Kirk, Co-Coordinator Family Promise Metrowest.



# Christmas Eve



4pm - Christmas Pageant  
Family service.

9pm - Candlelight Service



CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

# CALENDAR December 21st — January 4th

Sunday, Dec. 21st	8:15 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30am  4:00 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Linden Hall</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</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 8:00 pm 9:00 pm 10:00pm	Pageant Rehearsal Christmas Worship w/ Pageant, <i>Sanctuary</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <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>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Group Reunion Potluck, <i>Caryl and Dave Johnson's Home</i>
Thursday, Jan. 1st		New Year's Day Office Closed
Friday, Jan. 2nd	1:00 pm	Senior High Youth Group Ski Retreat
Sunday, Jan. 4th	9:00 am 10:00am 11:30am 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>



**Given by**

Georgina & James Ruetenik

Bill and Mary Lou Hughes

Leader-Hoffmeister Family

Scott, Judith & Ramsay Stewart

Donald and Karin MacPhee

The Cotton Family

The Cotton Family

Jackie Allen

Peter, Nancy, Brian & Chris Stam

Jean Andrews

Virgil & Claudette Horton

Blair & Debbie Wentworth

**In Memory of**

Our Loved Ones Arrieta's and  
Ruetenik's

the Edman, Roadman, &  
Hughes families

Our Loved Ones

Ray B. Greene, Jr. and Jeanie  
Stewart

Loved Ones

Joseph Cotton and Billy  
Cotton

Bill and Edna Doughman

Sue Baer

Edwin and Dorothy Campbell  
& Rudolph and Alma Stam

Robert Andrews

Lee Ann Horton

Stuart and Emily Campbell

