



**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM**

December 22, 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 22, 2013

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the NEW crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers, Grades 7-8, and 9-12 go directly downstairs to classes at 10am. Grades K-6 starts in the sanctuary and leaves after "Time for Children" to the chapel and then go to their workshops. K-1st in Theatre, 2nd-3rd in Games, and 4th-6th in Art. All workshops are downstairs in the main hallway.

PRELUDE

Entr'acte from Carmen
Georges Bizet (1838-1875), Bruce Goody, flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
arr. Charles Wood (1866-1926)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean Veigas

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 #132 (PH)**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

OPENING PRAYER

Jean Veigas

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

Siciliano
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING
(Led by members of the 2014 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 of 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.

TIME FOR CHILDREN (Children to Bible Village after song.)
Bible Village Song Presentation Jamie G. Klopotoski

CHILDREN'S HYMN (#526) We Are Marching In
The Light of God

ANTHEM In the Bleak Midwinter
Philip Stopford (b.1977), Soomi Lee Lowry, piano

Lullaby
John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:47-55 p. 54

SERMON "God's Vision for the Family" Susan Cartmell

HYMN #137 PH (seated) Away in the Manger

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

Where Shepherd's Lately Knelt
Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

****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 (PH)**

Joy to the World

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Christmas Blessing
Philip Stopford

POSTLUDE

Noel
Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

A special Thank You to Bruce Goody and Soomi Lee Lowry for sharing their musical talent with us this morning.

****You are invited to stand.***
(PH) stands for Pilgrim Hymnal

- Welcome to all who are here for the first time. Please fill out the blue “Welcome” card in the pews. You can request to receive our 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: Jean Veigas

Deacons: Robert Kennedy, Peter Atallah

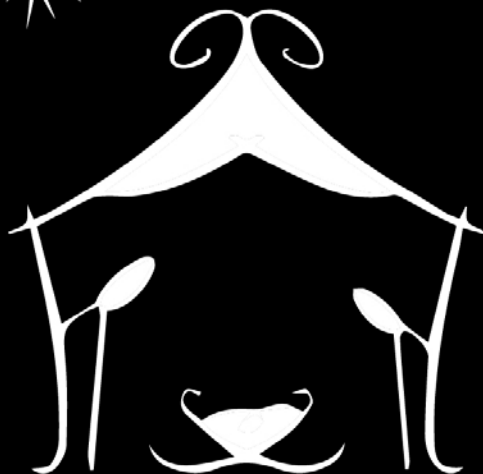
Ushers: Kevin Ward, Craig Morrison, Rob Blauvelt, Greg Rowan

Altar Guild: Denice Koljonen

Flowers: The Flower Committee

The ministers would like to wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Christmas Eve



4pm - Christmas Pageant
Family service.

9pm - Candlelight Service



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

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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 Clavton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Today – Dec. 22 at 11:30am

- Sun., December 22nd: 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)
- Tues., Dec. 24th: 2-4pm: Dress Rehearsal (snacks included)
- Tuesday, December 24th: 4-5pm: Performance

TODAY!! Youth, Children and Family Christmas Caroling!

This year, youth and children of all ages with their families are invited to an evening of Christmas Caroling to local nursing homes and neighborhood church members.

4pm: Meet at church for carpool

4:30-4:50pm: Sing at Briarwood, 150 Lincoln Street, (781) 449-4040

5:00-5:20pm: Sing at Avery Crossing, 110 West St, (781) 444-6655

5:30-6:00pm: Sing at church member's houses in Needham neighborhood.

6:00-6:30pm: Cookies and cocoa back at the church- please bring a plate of cookies to share.

Families are welcome to meet us at any of the locations, and leave whenever they need to, or join us for the entire evening!

Call Rev. Jamie's cell at 978-761-5959 to meet up with us!

Bible Study – Sunday Group: The Sunday Group meets in the Reception Room at 11:30 a.m.; Newcomers are welcome – next meeting is January 12th. Contact Sunu Yeh for more information- dormouse99@gmail.com.

Thursday 10:30am group will next meet January 9th with a new book on the 23rd Psalm- The Lord is My Shepherd by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Contact Christine Weitzel for information crweitz@verizon.net

NOMINATIONS -- If you are interested in serving on the church Board or one of its committees (Deacons, Outreach, Christian Education and Youth), please let us know! The ad hoc nominations committee is putting together a slate for January's annual meeting. If interested, please contact Martha Lamb (Martha_lamb@aol.com) or Jane Brand (ajbrand@comcast.net)!

Alternative Giving in December - Looking for a Christmas gift for the person who doesn't need any more "stuff"? Consider a donation

to the Guatemala Partnership. You will receive a 'gift' card for the person you're honoring. Drop by the Guatemala table in Fellowship Hall after worship Sundays through Christmas. Colorful calendars are also available for purchase.

Reminder to Partner Families - Remember your partner family in Santa Maria Tzeja as you celebrate Christmas. It's the perfect time to write a letter to be translated and delivered by the Feb delegation. E-mail letters to: davebjohnson@verizon.net by Jan. 4th. 'Hard-copy' photos, cards, & other inserts can be delivered to the Guatemala Partnership box in the office. Several families in SMT are awaiting new Needham families. If you would like to learn more about the program, please contact Dave Johnson.

Our next Community Dinner will take place on Tuesday, the 7th of January, 2014. Volunteers and diners are welcome to join.

The first Thursday Lunch with Heike will take place on Thursday, January 9, 2014 from 12 to 1pm in the Library.

The **Cancer Support Group** will resume meeting Mon., January 6th

CALENDAR December 22 – January 5, 2014

Sunday December 22nd	9am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
	9:15am	Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
	10am	Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i>
	11:30am	Pageant Lunch, <i>Linden Hall</i>
	Noon	Pageant Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
	4pm	Shepherd Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Christmas Caroling, <i>Church</i>
Tuesday December 24th	2pm	Pageant Dress Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
	4pm	Christmas Pageant, <i>Sanctuary</i>
	9pm	Candlelight Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i>
December 25th & 26th		Church Offices Closed
Sun. Dec. 29th	10am	Worship – Rev. Jamie, “ <u>Relative by blood, marriage, or spirit?</u> ”, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st		Church Offices Closed
Sunday Jan. 5th	10am	Worship - Rev. Susan, <u>Pride – Wise Folks Know Enough to Search: Learning from the Wise Men</u> , <i>Sanctuary</i>



Christmas Flower Offering

<u>Given by</u>	<u>In Loving Memory of</u>
Jean Andrews and Family	Robert (Rob) Andrews
The Barth Family	Margaret & Bruce Riefe
Doris Cook	Ed Cook, Emily & George Drescher and Walter & Elsie Attridge
The Cotton Family	Joseph Cotton and Edna Doughman
The Fernandez Family	The Fernandez Family remembers many lakeside moments with our Mother and Grandmother, Happy Fernandez
The Huffs and Kokkos	Andy and Marge Kokko: From their Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren
Bill and Mary Lou Hughes	Edman, Roadman, & Hughes families
Mary Leenhouts	





Christmas Flower Offering

<u>Given by</u>	<u>In Loving Memory of</u>
Donald and Karin MacPhee	Loved Ones
Janet Floyd Rubenstein	Virginia M. Floyd
Blair & Debbie Wentworth	Stuart & Emily Campbell
Virgil & Claudette Horton	LeeAnn Horton
The Koljonen Family	Juha T. Koljonen
Janine & Bob Everts	Frank Martino
The Cullen Family	"In Honor of the Walker School Children"

