

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Communion*

Saturday December 24th, 9pm



The Congregational  
Church of Needham

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

December 24, 2016

9:00PM

## MUSICAL PRELUDE

Holly Carol  
Jan Reese  
Chancel Choir

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming  
(melody from *Alle Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1599*) arr. Brian Hanson  
Laura Frye, Maggie Furtak, Joseph Rondeau, Crosby Goshgarian Jr.

La Vierge et l'Enfant from *La Nativite du Seigneur*  
Olivier Messiaen  
Sangyoung Kim

O Holy Night  
Adolphe Adams  
Crosby Goshgarian Jr., bass  
Dave Darmofal, piano

## Welcome and Congregational Greeting

## OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #145 (*Black, New Century Hymnal*)

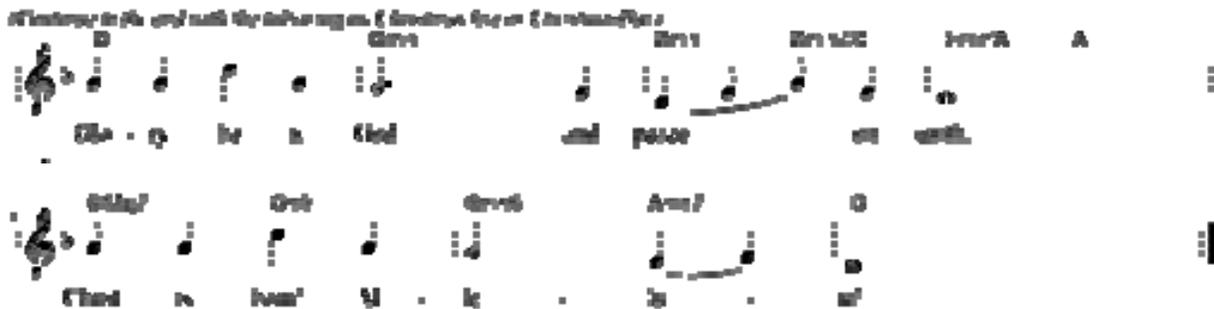
Once in Royal David's City  
*first verse sung by Maggie Furtak*

## Lighting the Christ Candle

### Song for Lighting Advent Candles

(accompaniment part)

Once in Royal David's City  
Where our path through  
Jordan's desert leads  
Came on this Christmas Eve  
the Light of the World



First Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**ANTHEM**

Born on a New Day  
*John David*  
 New Words by Philip Lawson  
 Chancel Choir

Second Lesson:

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of God stood before them, and the glory of God shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Sovereign One. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!’

**Hymn (seated) #124 (Black, New Century Hymnal)**

**Away in a Manger**

Third Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which God has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them.

**ANTHEM**

Gotta Whisper, Gotta Shout  
*Victor C. Johnson*  
 Chancel Choir and soloist - Joseph Rondeau, tenor

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

“Always a Place for You”  
 Jim Mitulski

## The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

### ANTHEM

Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day

*John Gardner*

Chancel Choir

Joseph Rondeau, hand drum

### COMMUNION LITURGY *(Please say the parts in bold.)*

God is with you **AND ALSO WITH YOU**

Let us lift up our hearts **WE LIFT THEM UP TO GOD**

Let us give God thanks and praise **IT IS A GOOD AND JOYFUL THING TO DO**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing..

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly God of pow'r and God of might,

Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo - ry; Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in God's name; Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at the table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

**“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

**“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for**

**the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the true presence of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us with all your people, from every tribe and language and race and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

As we prepare for communion and as a sign of our unity we pray the prayer of Jesus, in whatever version is familiar to us.

Our God ...Our Mother/Father.... Our Father.... Our Mother... Our Creator...  
Who art in heaven....  
And forgive us our debts... or and forgive us our trespasses...  
For thine is the kingdom.... For the kingdom. The power...

Open Communion: The United Church of Christ practices an Open Communion. This means everyone is welcome to receive the bread and the grape juice at communion. You do not need to be a member of this or any church to receive communion. You do not need to be baptized or confirmed. You are welcome to receive communion if you are divorced or remarried or single, or if you are gay or transgender, if you are believing or seeking, if you are atheist or agnostic or orthodox in your beliefs. Everyone is welcome, no exceptions.

Parents may bring their children to communion. Children may receive, or simply receive a blessing. There is gluten-free bread available. At the far end on each side, by the doors, people are available to pray with you- privately, confidentially- for whatever you want someone to pray with you about- - just approach them, tell them what you want prayers for and they will pray with you.

**HYMN** (*seated, during communion*)

**#128** (*Red, Pilgrim Hymnal*)

**#134** (*Red, Pilgrim Hymnal*)

**In the Bleak Midwinter**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

*Pass the light to your neighbor. Tilt the unlit candle.*

**HYMN** (*seated, during candle lighting*) **#134** (*Black, New Century Hymnal*)      **Silent Night, Holy Night**

**Closing Prayer**

Prayer by Candlelight by Howard Thurman

**I will light candles this Christmas;  
Candles of joy despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all the year long.**

**CLOSING HYMN** **#144** (*Black, New Century Hymnal*)

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Christmas Blessing  
*Lloyd Larson*

## POSTLUDE

Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light from Christmas Cantata  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring  
*Johann Sebastian Bach*

- \* *You are invited to stand for the opening and closing hymns.  
Please remain seated for the singing of the carols.*

*A Blessed Christmas to You and Your Family and Friends.  
On behalf of the Church, the Deacons extend to you our very best wishes for a blessed Christmas.*

*Deacons: Joanne Seiden, Jean Veigas  
Altar Guild: Carol Miller*

*Communion Servers: Claudia Darmofal, Carol Miller  
Flowers: Connie Kaufman*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome to all who are here for the first time.</li><li>• Please Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here.</li><li>• Please ask an usher if you would like or need a hearing device.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please silence your cell phone before attending the service.</li><li>• You can Tweet or Instagram during the service.</li></ul> |
|---|---|

### **Rev. Jim Mitulski's Office Hours**

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment during his office hours of  
Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm; Thursday 2-5pm  
\*If these times do not work for you please contact  
the office for alternate availability.

### **Staff**

Interim Senior Minister  
The Rev. Jim Mitulski  
RevJim@needhamucc.org  
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister  
The Rev. Heike Werder  
RevHeike@needhamucc.org  
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries  
Madelyn Downer  
Youth@needhamucc.org  
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Music Director  
Valerie Becker  
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Organist/Accompanist  
Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator  
Danielle Jurdan  
Office@needhamucc.org  
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant  
Cindy Sullivan  
Office2@needhamucc.org  
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Bookkeeper  
Suzanne Leslie  
Finance@needhamucc.org  
781-444-2510, ext. 113

Handyman  
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper  
Sanira Alchaar

The Congregational Church of Needham  
1154 & 1180 Great Plain Avenue  
Needham, Massachusetts 02492  
www.needhamucc.org  
Facebook: Congregational Church of Needham UCC  
Twitter @needhamucc Instagram: needhamucc  
781-444-2510 office@needhamucc.org  
*The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus*