

Sunday, December 27, 2015

10:00am

## Hymn Sing

*Families are encouraged to attend Worship together.*

### PRELUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It may seem naïve, in a world of grief, to choose to live in  
joy

**People: It may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is  
power, to sing and dance to a different tune.**

Leader: It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice, to  
speak of light and celebration;

**People: But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief,  
light into our darkness, signing into our mourning;  
and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe  
and embrace the joy you offer.**

Leader: Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

**People: Hallelujah!**

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

### OPENING PRAYER

*Call to Prayer*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us pray.

## *Unison Prayer*

**As we ponder what Christmas means to us today, may we follow the way of the light:**

**May we choose to be instruments of hope in the world by spreading the hope of promise of the Christ Child.**

**May we choose to counter the voices of anxiety and despair in the world by singing songs of hope because the world can be changed.**

**May we choose to fight against the fear that freezes the heart of many by telling them of love that conquers fear, the love of a child in a manger.**

**The choice is ours to make, how we love into the possibilities of Christmas.**

**But we do not have to live out our choice by our own strength, for God is with us, feeding our hopes and quieting our fears.**

**In the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, hear us as we pray...**

*Silent Prayer*

*Lord's Prayer (debt, debtors)*

*Prayer Response*

## **ANTHEM**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

## **OUR FAITH SET TO MUSIC**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b># 120 (PH)</b> | <b>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</b>    |
| <b># 136 (PH)</b> | <b>On This Day Earth Shall Ring</b>    |
| <i>Insert</i>     | <b>O Holy Night</b>                    |
| <b># 129 (PH)</b> | <b>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</b> |
| <b># 143 (PH)</b> | <b>We Three Kings of Orient Are</b>    |

## **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*

*\*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 #154 (NCH)**

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

## 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.

*Deacons:* Frank Luppino, Stephanie Oddleifson

*Altar Guild:* Diane Myers

*Ushers:* Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison, Chris Nyland, Kevin Ward

*Flowers:* Connie Kaufman

*Flower Delivery:* Jean Veigas

*The flowers on the altar are given today to the Glory of God in loving memory of Billy Cotton, Joseph Cotton, and William and Edna Doughman by the Cotton Family.*

*The Congregational Church of Needham*  
*1154 Great Plain Avenue*  
*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  
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus  
Sangyoung Kim, Interim Organist and Pianist

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Stewardship Update:** Thank you to everyone who has sent their pledges in. 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. 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 office, calling the office at 781-444-2510 or email to [pledge@needhamucc.org](mailto:pledge@needhamucc.org). Thank you.

**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. We are continuing 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).

**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!

**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.

**Need a Gift for Someone who has Everything? Or for a teacher?:** Make a donation to benefit education in Santa Maria Tzeja and receive a beautiful donor card honoring someone special in your child's life. Your donation will help support students who wish to continue in school but whose families cannot afford the increased Computer Center fee of \$35/year to remain in middle school. The village had to raise the student fee to cover the increased costs to maintain the Computer Center. For more information, or to make a donation in any amount and receive a donor gift card, come to Guatemala table in Fellowship Hall after worship or contact Val Kistler at [valk228@gmail.com](mailto:valk228@gmail.com).

**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.

**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)

## CALENDAR December 27th—January 7th

Sunday, Dec. 27th	10:00 am 11:30 am	Worship Service/Hymn Sing, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>
Friday, January 1st  <b>New Year's Day</b>		Office Closed
Sunday, January 3rd	10:00 am 11:30 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Group Board Game Night Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, January 4th	8:30 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, January 5th	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., January 6th	7:00 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
Thurs., January 7th	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden Hall</i>

## Oh, Holy Night

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope--the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees!  
O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light! of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend.  
He knows our need - to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
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