



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

December 28, 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 28, 2014

10:00am

*Childcare is available downstairs in the preschool room for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Grades K-12 stay in the Sanctuary for Worship with your families.*

**PRELUDE**

There's a Song in the Air  
*arr. Wilbur Held*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Diana Conroy

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 #163 (Black Hymnal) Many are the Light Beams**

*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*

**ANTHEM**

Lullaby

*John Ness Beck*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Matthew 25:31-34

**SERMON**

“Where are you God? A Sermon on the Church and Community”

Jamie Klopotoski

**HYMN (seated) #165 (*Black Hymnal*)**

**Love Came Down  
at Christmas**

**MORNING PRAYER**

Sandra Summers

*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*

Once in Royal David's City  
*Alexander/Gauntlett*

*\*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 #154** (*Black Hymnal*)

**Go Tell it on  
the Mountain**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

A Christmas Blessing  
*Philip Stopford*

**POSTLUDE**

Joy to the World  
*arr. Albin Whitworth*

*\*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.

*Worship Leader:* Diana Conroy

*Deacons:* Fabienne Madsen

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

*Altar Guild:* Chris Arren

*Flowers:* Connie Kaufman

*The flowers on the altar are given today to the Glory of God in loving memory of Joan and Charles Waggner and Bill Weitzel from Christine, Rich, Nicole, and Ryan Weitzel. We love you and we miss you.*

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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**. Contact Christine Weitzel (cweitzel@verizon.net) or Reverend Susan Cartmell (revsusan@needhamucc.org) to join the group or for more information about the group.

**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. 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, 1:15p.m.:** Join Friendly Society members for a book discussion on January 8th at 1:15p.m.. The book we are reading is The Light Between Oceans: A Novel by M.L. Stedman. 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 Patty 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)





# Connect

## **Worship on Wednesday's**

at the Congregational Church of Needham

Join us for the opportunity to come together  
to Connect mid-week. To Recharge,  
Renew and Rediscover.

Every Wednesday from 6pm - 8pm

Who is this for?

You - if you travel, ski or sleep in on the weekend.  
You if you like experiential Worship, or you want to  
try something new. You if you seek more inspiration,  
need some mid-week fun or are looking to recharge.

Visit the website at [http://needhamucc.org/  
connect-worship-on-wednesdays/](http://needhamucc.org/connect-worship-on-wednesdays/)

# CALENDAR December 28th — January 8th

Sunday, Dec. 28th	9:00 am 11:30am 12:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Youth Group Reunion Potluck, <i>Caryl and Dave Johnson's Home</i>
Monday, Dec. 29th	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</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>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, Jan. 5th	9:00 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, Jan. 6th	10:00am 6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Wed., Jan. 7th	7:30 pm	Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 8th	10:30am 1:15 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Friendly Society Meeting, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>