



**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM**

December 29, 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 29, 2013

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the NEW crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers go directly downstairs to classes at 10am. Grades K-6 starts in the sanctuary and leave after "Time for Children" to the chapel for a movie. Grades 7-8 & 9-12 stay in the Sanctuary for Worship with your families.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Cartmell

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 #126(NCH) Angels from the Realms of Glory**

OPENING PRAYER

Susan Cartmell

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN (Children to the Chapel after the song)

CHILDREN'S HYMN (#526)

We Are Marching In
The Light of God

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:11-32

SERMON

“Relative by blood, marriage, or spirit?”

Jamie Klopotoski

HYMN (seated) #165 (NCH)

Love Came Down at Christmas

MORNING PRAYER

Susan Cartmell

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 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(NCH)**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

****You are invited to stand.***

(NCH) stands for New Century 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, our church website.

Worship Leader: Susan Cartmell

Deacons: Craig Morrison, Lorri Lofvers

Ushers: Frank Arren, Chris Arren, Todd Barth, Dave Johnson, Jan Rubenstein

Flowers: Connie Kaufman

Flower Delivery: Chris Arren

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Theodore W. Dearborn, Jr. by his family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 standing 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 you would like to serve please get in touch with Martha Lamb (Martha_lamb@aol.com) or Jane Brand (ajbrand@comcast.net)!

Reminder to Partner Families - Remember your partner family in Santa Maria Tzeja as you celebrate the Christmas season. It's a perfect time to write so that the letter can 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 later to the Guatemala Partnership box in the office. Several families in SMT are awaiting new Needham families to correspond with, so if you would like to learn more about the program, please let Dave Johnson know.

Calendar December 29 – January 9 2014

Sunday December 29th	10am	Worship – Rev. Jamie, “ <u>Relative by blood, marriage, or spirit?</u> ”, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st		Church Offices Closed
Thurs. Jan. 2nd	7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Friday January 3rd	4pm	Senior High Winter Retreat, <i>Church Parking Lot</i>
Sunday January 5th	9am 9:15am 10am 11:30am Noon 7pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship –Team Preaching Sermon with Rev. Susan, her daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law, Seth <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Rm</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Rm</i> Guatemala Partnership Mtg, <i>Library</i>

Monday January 6th	9am 7:30pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Rm</i> Design Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday January 7th	10am 6pm 7pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>Conference Room</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Chapel</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed. Jan. 8th	7pm	Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thurs. Jan. 9th	10:30am Noon	Bible Study, <i>Reception Room</i> Lunch with Rev. Heike, <i>Library</i>

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The Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister	Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister	Valerie Becker, Dir of Youth Music
The Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Clavton, Pastor Emeritus