



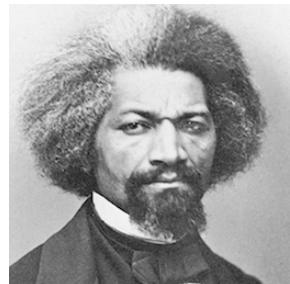
# The Congregational Church of Needham

*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**Second Sunday in Black History Month  
We've Come This Far By Faith  
The Sunday Next Before Lent or Quinquagesima Sunday  
February 11, 2018 at 10 am**

**FREDERICK DOUGLASS  
BY ROBERT HAYDEN**

**When it is finally ours, this freedom, this liberty, this beautiful  
and terrible thing, needful to man as air,  
usable as earth; when it belongs at last to all,  
when it is truly instinct, brain matter, diastole, systole,  
reflex action; when it is finally won; when it is more  
than the gaudy mumbo jumbo of politicians:  
this man, this Douglass, this former slave, this Negro  
beaten to his knees, exiled, visioning a world  
where none is lonely, none hunted, alien,  
this man, superb in love and logic, this man  
shall be remembered. Oh, not with statues' rhetoric,  
not with legends and poems and wreaths of bronze alone,  
but with the lives grown out of his life, the lives  
fleshing his dream of the beautiful, needful thing.**



*Welcome to our worship service.*

*Please join us for refreshments and time for fellowship immediately following the service.*

**PRELUDE**

Eyes Hath Not Seen  
A. R. Gaul

**GATHERING SONG** *(see insert)*

**We've Come This Far By Faith**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

Rev. Jim and Rev. Heike

**OPENING PRAYER** (from the United Church of Canada)

God of love, peace, and unity,  
we thank you for welcoming us all just as we are;  
for making us equal as your children  
from all corners of the earth;  
and for giving us your blessings as your children;  
and for making us belong.  
We pray that you help us realize that we are  
all made in your image, and we need to bring peace  
to all your creation as one people who belong to you.  
We ask all this through Christ our brother. Amen.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #436** *(Black, New Century)*

**God of Grace and God of Glory**

**ANTHEM**

Let it Shine  
*traditional spiritual arr Besig (b. 1936)*  
Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choirs

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

*Children leave for Sunday School after the Anthem.*

“Why do we bury the Alleluia?”

**ANTHEM**

Gaudeamus Hodie  
*Earlene Rentz (b. 1956)*  
Shepherd's Staff Choir

**Our Outreach into the World**

*Celebrating the 18th Anniversary of Open and Affirming Ministry*

## **Church 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.

## **Open and Affirming Statement**

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.

*(This statement adopted in 2000, reflects the welcome of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their friends and families.)*

## ***Commissioning the Guatemala Delegation & Blessing Holy Water***

### **READINGS**

Exodus 3:7

Then God said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings.

Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Sovereign God is on me,  
because God has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
God has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of God's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,

the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Holy One  
for the display of her splendor.  
They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

Galatians 3: 28

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**HYMN #476** (*Black, New Century*)

**My Life Flows on In Endless Song**

**SERMON**

Gretchen Cook-Anderson  
Needham Diversity Initiative

**HYMN #437** (*Black, New Century*)  
**Fight**

**We Shall Not Give Up the**

## **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

*Concerns and Celebrations*

*Prayers for Our Friends and Families, Our Church, Our Community, and the World.*

*Lord's Prayer (please pray whatever form is familiar to you; many choose to pray Our Father, Our Mother, Our Father and Mother, Our Creator, or Our Maker, or Father/Mother God...debts/debtors or trespasses/those who trespass...)*

## **OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

*In each of our pews today is a black friendship book which we encourage you to fill out and pass to the person next to you during the offering. If you have been with us before, just put down your name, but if you are new today, please let us know who you are. Thanks!*

*Offertory Anthem*

My Lord, what a Morning

Harry T. Burleigh (1866 - 1949)

**\* 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 #526** (*Black, New Century*)

**Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'  
We are marching in the light of God**

*note: we may also sing*

**Caminamos en la luz de Dios Caminamos en la luz de Dios (se repite dos veces)**

**Caminamos Caminamos Caminamos en la luz de Dios (se repite dos veces)**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Choral No. 3  
Cesar Franck

*Worship Assistant: Jan Drake*

*Deacons: Paul Brown, Lucy Slosser*

*Altar Guild: Laura Cullen*

*Ushers: Nancy Lane, David Libby, Scott Lively, Jeanie Martin*

*Flowers: Joann Seiden*

*Flower Delivery: Caryl Johnson*

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory  
of Carson Joseph Leifur Oberle by Carol and Mark Oberle and family.*

*Our guest preacher Gretchen Cook-Anderson is a Needham Resident, on the board of the Needham Diversity Initiative, and is active in many town affairs. As the Director of Diversity Recruiting & Advising at IES Abroad, Gretchen oversees efforts to increase enrollment and enhance the study abroad experience of diverse students. Gretchen is a marketing and PR professional with over 10 years of experience in international education. An IES Abroad alum (Japan) herself, she holds a Bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a Master's degree in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University. An award-winning professional, her efforts led to 11.3 percent growth in participation among ethnically diverse students in IES Abroad programs in 2013 and 2014.*

Welcome to all who are new or here for the first time! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please email Rev. Jim at [revjim@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjim@needhamucc.org), Rev Heike at [revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto:revheike@needhamucc.org) or call the office at 781-444-2510 to set up a conversation.

For updates on church life, our family ministries, Christian Education and Youth Ministries follow us at: **@NeedhamUCC on Instagram**

**Congregational Church of Needham UCC on Facebook**

**@needhamucc on Twitter [www.needhamucc.org](http://www.needhamucc.org)**

Please silence your cell phone before attending the service. You can Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here. Feel free to Tweet, Snapchat, or Instagram during the service. If you would like or need a hearing device an usher will be able to assist you. Children's Childcare is offered for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Nursery located downstairs during the service.

#### **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 Evening hours are also available by appointment.

\*If these times do not work for you please contact the office for alternate availability.

#### **Staff**

Interim Senior Minister—The Rev. Jim Mitulski  
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781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister—The Rev. Heike Werder  
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781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries—Madelyn Downer  
[Youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:Youth@needhamucc.org)  
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Organist/Accompanist—Sangyoung Kim

Housekeeper—Sanira Alchaar

Church Administrator—Danielle Jurdan  
[Office@needhamucc.org](mailto:Office@needhamucc.org)  
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant & Bookkeeper—Cindy Sullivan  
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781-444-2510, ext. 100

Music Director—Valerie Becker  
[musicdirector@needhamucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org)

Handyman—Bill Donovan

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*The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

**February 11, 2018**

**Cake Today! Eighteen years ago this week (February 13) our congregation voted to adopt an Open and Affirming covenant. Please enjoy a celebratory piece of cake in coffee hour today.**

**Transition Team Update** The strong participation by the congregation in the focus group meetings and survey has provided the Transition Team with valuable information to complete the Church Profile. During the next several weeks we will be going over the data and organizing the feedback for the Profile.

At the same time the Team will be engaged in the **Who is Our Neighbor** portion of the Profile process. We will be interviewing community leaders to hear their perspective on the community and our Church and how we may be supportive.

We expect to have all of these activities completed in the next few weeks and hope to complete the Profile work by the end of February. The Reverend Wendy Vander Hart from the Mass. Conference UCC will then review and validate the Profile.

As always, please e-mail us at [transitionteam@needhamucc.org](mailto:transitionteam@needhamucc.org) if you have questions.

The Transition Team: Deb Abraham, Alan Clayton-Matthews, Diana Conroy, Claudia Darmofal, Frank Lupino, Carl Madsen, Barbra Morton, Heather Salerno, Reverend Jim Mitulski

**Guatemala Delegation Send-Off, Tuesday, February 13, 7:00 pm**, Johnson's home (505 Great Plain Ave). Please join us for this brief send-off of the church's 61st delegation to Guatemala! Come hear about the delegation's planned activities in Guatemala City and the village, travelers' hopes, and well-wishes by family and friends. Delegation travelers include Co-leaders Brenda Metzler and Fred Moder, Jennifer Connors, Maria Libbey, Chloè Misiak, Jerry Durbin, Lucienne Ronco, Nick and Anthony Rhind, Natalie Hallagan, and Lexie Chu, as well as optometrist Scott Pike and wife Joene from Oregon. We ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers that this will be a meaningful and safe trip for all and a blessing to our partnership. (And save the date for the Delegation Reportback: March 11, 11:30 am, Linden Hall).

**Interfaith "Spotlight: Boston. Racism. Image. Reality." Discussion Series: Part 2**  
**Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm at First Baptist Church of Needham:** Were you shaken, intrigued, or befuddled by the *Boston Globe* Spotlight team's latest series on Boston and racism? Are you curious how Needham and other MetroWest communities reflect this series' insights and exposures? With our neighbors at First Baptist and First Parish Needham U.U. Churches, we will discuss this important series. For our second discussion, please read the articles on Bos-

ton colleges (December 13<sup>th</sup>), Boston sports and fans (December 14<sup>th</sup>), and Boston politics (December 15<sup>th</sup>); the Spotlight series is available online at [bostonglobe.com](http://bostonglobe.com) or through the Needham Free Public Library. The final discussion will be March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Congregational Church. All are welcome, regardless of attendance at prior discussions.

**Community Interfaith Discussion—Interfaith Book Club of the Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland** invites you to a discussion of Sacred Ground; Pluralism, Prejudice, and the Promise of America by Eboo Patel (reading the book is not a requirement to join the discussion). **March 4, 3:00-5:00 PM at ICB Wayland** (126 Boston Post Road, Wayland). For questions and to RSVP contact [bookclub@icbwayland.org](mailto:bookclub@icbwayland.org)

**FLOWER VASES NEEDED** Please bring in your clean, unused flower containers so that we can use them for our Sunday flower arrangements that we create from the beautiful altar arrangement. The bouquets are delivered to members and friends we want to keep in our thoughts and prayers. Please leave your donations in the small kitchen. Thank you so much!

**Do you enjoy singing?** The Choir extends an invitation to all who like to sing. Just bring your voice to church on any Sunday morning at 8:30. We practice pieces for the service and perhaps for the next week as well. We have an evening rehearsal just once a month on the first Thursday at 7:30, where we preview the music for the coming four weeks. In February we sing spirituals. They are fun to sing and so it is a good time to give choir a try. If you wish to sing only one time, now and again or every week, you are welcome.

**JOIN THE FRIENDLY CHIMERS** as we begin rehearsing for Easter. No prior experience is needed (& you only need to learn 2 notes) except a love of making music with others, being inspired and inspiring others with sacred music & a commitment to rehearsing after church from 11:30-12:15, beginning on Feb 11. For more information: Joanne Seiden ([jseiden@basiclink.com](mailto:jseiden@basiclink.com); 781-449-6535). **COME & SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE & HOW MUCH FUN IT IS!**

### **ECO Words** 10 Green Resolutions for 2018

- Schedule an appointment with a solar installer
- Start a compost pile
- Plant a small pollinator garden
- Commit to not eating meat 1-2 (or more) days a week
- Looking for a new car? Consider electric!
- Buy a reusable water bottle and commit to no more disposable bottles
- Start a small vegetable garden
- Use reusable containers instead of zip-locks and plastic wrap
- Join a farm CSA
- Limit the use of pesticides on your property.

<p>Sunday February 11th</p>	<p>8:15 am 8:30 am  10:00 am  11:30 am  4:00 pm 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Men's Fellowship Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Confirmation Parent Meeting, <i>Reception Room</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship-Blessing of Guatemala Travelers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Rev. Jim– Adult Ed School Board Report, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chimers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Meditation w/ Sue Findlay, <i>Reception Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group</p>
<p>Monday February 12th</p>	<p>9:00 am 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i> Transition Team, <i>Chapel</i></p>
<p>Tuesday February 13th</p>	<p>6:30 pm 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Board Meeting, <i>Library</i> Guatemala Send-Off , <i>Johnson Home</i></p>
<p>Wednesday February 14th</p>	<p>7:00 pm</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday, <i>Presbyterian Church(148 Great Plain Ave.)</i></p>
<p>Thursday February 15th</p>	<p>12:00 pm</p>	<p>Lenten Lunch, <i>Library</i></p>
<p>Sunday February 18th</p>	<p>8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am</p>	<p>Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hidden Figures Movie, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Friendly Chimers, <i>Sanctuary</i></p>
<p>Monday February 19th President's Day</p>		<p>Office Closed</p>
<p>Tuesday February 20th</p>	<p>7:15 pm</p>	<p>EMT Meeting, <i>Library</i></p>
<p>Wednesday February 21st</p>	<p>7:00 pm</p>	<p>Lenten Vespers, <i>Chapel</i></p>
<p>Thursday February 22nd</p>	<p>12:00 pm</p>	<p>Lenten Lunch, <i>Linden Hall</i></p>

# Lent

## 40 DAYS OF RENEWAL

### ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14TH

MORNING ASHES AT NEEDHAM CENTER TRAIN STATION  
7PM WORSHIP SERVICE AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEEDHAM  
1458 GREAT PLAIN AVE

### LENT VESPERS

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 7PM

2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14 & 3/21

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

### LENT LUNCH WITH REV. HEIKE

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS AT NOON

2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR A SIMPLE SOUP LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP

### PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 25TH

9:15AM ON THE NEEDHAM COMMON

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 29TH

6PM SIMPLE SOUP SUPPER

7PM WORSHIP AND THE STORY OF THE PASSION OF JESUS

### GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 30TH

7PM WORSHIP AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 858 GREAT PLAIN AVE.

## 412 WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

*For we walk by faith, not by sight.  
2 Corinthians 5:7*

Refrain

We've come this far by faith, Lean-ing on the

Lord; Trust-ing in His ho-ly word,

He's nev-er failed me yet. Oh

can't turn a-round, We've come this far by faith.

Verse 1

1. Don't be dis-cour-aged when trou-ble's in your

life, He'll bear your bur-dens and

move all mis-er-y and strife. That's why we've

2. Just the other day I heard someone say  
He didn't believe in God's word;  
But I can truly say that God had made a way,  
And He's never failed me yet.  
That's why we've...