



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

February 21, 2016

Theme: Who We Are



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, February 21, 2016

10:00am

*Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians.
Pre-K children are invited to the nursery throughout the service.
Students in grades K-8 will be dismissed to their classrooms. Students in grades 9-12 may stay in the Sanctuary with their parents.*

PRELUDE

Prayer

By Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hiroko Hardebeck

Leader: Our faith calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Our faith calls us into covenant with God.

Leader: Our faith calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Our faith calls us to practice God's love and justice.

Leader: Our faith calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Our faith calls each of us to love God with our heart, mind, and soul.

Leader: Our faith calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us every day.

***OPENING HYMN # 66 (NCH)**

O Day of Radiant Gladness

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

God, source of all life, we pray:

Fulfill your promise and bless us with your presence.

Without you we cannot live as a new creation.

Only you lead us into the truth.

Only you broaden our horizon and our heart

So that we can accept each other with empathy and without prejudice -

Whatever our culture and tradition,

Our gender or sexual orientation,

Our age and education,

Our ability and economic circumstance may be.

Transform us, we pray, so that we may become more human,

More open, more friendly, more loving toward all our neighbors and all your creation.

Be with us as we work for justice and pray for love ...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

5 Fold Amen

Michael Norton

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children.

**CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 (NCH) We Are Marching In The Light
Of God**

ANTHEM

When Jesus Wept

William Billings (1746-1800)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 5: 1-10; 7:28 NT, p. 4 and 7

SERMON “Sustained by Love—Wisdom for All”
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) #564 (NCH) **We Are Not Our Own**

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.

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

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

**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 # 451 (NCH)**

Be Now My Vision

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

The Benediction
Kurt Nystedt (1915-2014)

POSTLUDE

Sortie
By Nicholas Jaques Lemmens (1823-1881)

****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, our church website.

Worship Assistant: Hiroko Hardebeck

Deacons: Kirby Salerno, Carol Miller

Ushers: Mike Normile, Janet Jankowiak, Bob Everts, Jim Conroy

Altar Guild: Denice Koljonen

Flowers: Joanne Seiden

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Janice Walsh by Carol and Paul Brown.

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The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
Madelyn Downer, Director of Children &
Youth Ministries

Valerie Becker, Music Director
Sangyoung Kim, Accompanist
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY —Japan and Its Christian History—Sunday Feb. 21, 11:30am

Join us for this wonderful program presented by Yuzo Dort. Lunch will be available

Adult Bible Study, Sunday's @ 11:30 Conference Room: Are you interested in deepening your understanding of the Bible? Everyone is welcome to try out Adult Bible Study. We meet on Sundays immediately after church from 11:30 to 12:30 in the reception room. This winter, we will be studying Paul's epistle to the Romans, for what should be a wonderful discussion about faith. Contact Sunu Yeh at dormouse99@gmail.com for more information. Please drop by and try us out!

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book group will meet on Thursdays, for a total of 8 sessions from 10:30-12:00. We will meet on Feb.25, March 3, 17, & 24th If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net

Club 3-4-5: February Meeting

+ Thursday, February 25; 6:30-7:30 pm

We'll have a super fun time with a superhero-themed meeting. Wear a costume if you have it!

Lenten Carbon Fast!: As people of faith, it is our responsibility to be wise stewards of God's Creation. As part of Lent, the Environmental Ministries Team will suggest actions each week that will reduce your production of climate changing pollution and help to preserve God's gift of the earth for future generations. More information is posted on the EMT bulletin board and on the church website.

Tips for the week! Minimize idle time by turning off your car if it is stationary for more than one minute. Save paper by using cloth towels/napkins instead of paper towels/napkins.

SR High: Monster Mini Golf—Sunday, February 28, 5:30-8:00 pm

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm to carpool to Monster Mini Golf in Norwood. Students will return to the church by 8:00 pm for parent pickup.

Guatemala Partnership February Delegation Report March 6 at 11:30 AM

The February delegation has completed its visit with Santa Maria Tzeja. They are expected home this evening. They will bring back lots of experiences and stories to share at the March 6th, 11:30 am 'Reportback' presentation in Linden Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you or a family member plan to join a delegation or you are interested to hear their impressions of this trip save the date and plan to join us!

Interested In A Bike Ride This Summer?

Anyone interested in biking the Erie Canal bike path, from Buffalo to Albany around the end of June, beginning July? This 400 mile ride is an adventure for all levels of bikers. Talk to Rev. Heike if you are interested.

Bible Village: New Class Structure & Teachers Needed!

Last week, our Sunday School classes began dividing up a bit differently. Grades K-2 are now together and they are the "Salt" group. Grades 3-5 are together; they are the "Light" group. We are still using the workshop format to guide our students in faith formation. We have many spots available to teach and shepherd these groups - please sign up at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844a8aa23a2fd0-spring>

Friendly Chimers: If you've ever wanted to make music but have no real music-making experience, consider joining FRIENDLY CHIMERS! Prerequisites include being able to 1) keep time 2) learn two notes (one for each hand) 3) regularly attend rehearsals (11:40-12:30 after church every Sunday) 4) enjoy playing with others 5) be patient with yourself and fellow Chimers. If you're interested, contact Joanne Seiden (781-449-6635, jseiden@basiclink.com). WE NEED YOU!

Request for Altar Guild Volunteers: The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. High school students are welcome to join. Please contact Carol Miller at millerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Notice: Reverend Heike's email address is revheike@needhamucc.org if you are using revheike@needhamcongregational.org that email address is no longer in service.

Notice: For information on if the church is open during times of inclement weather please check the website (www.needhamucc.org) or call the church office (781-444-2510) and select option 7.

Outreach Committee

Lunch & Learn

Sunday, Feb. 28th

11:30am

Needham Town organizations will be here for a panel discussion.

What a great way to hear about their work, what they might need, and how to get involved!

CALENDAR February 21st—March 4th

Sunday, Feb. 21st	8:15 am 10:00am 11:30am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Lunch & Learn - Japan and Its Christian History, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Monday, Feb.. 22nd	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 23rd	7:00 pm	Outreach Meeting, <i>221 Elmwood Road</i> CE Meeting
Wed., Feb. 24th	7:00 pm	Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, Feb. 25th	10:30am 12:00pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Club 3-4-5 Meeting, <i>Stevenson Hall</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, Feb. 28th	10:00am 11:30am 6:30 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Lunch & Learn—Outreach, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> SH Youth Group, <i>Monster Mini Golf</i>
Monday, Feb. 29th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, March 1st	10:00am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>1180 Dining Room</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Youth Committee Meeting
Wed., March 3rd	7:15 pm	EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thursday, March 4th	10:30am 12:00pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Lenten Lunch, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>