



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

March 1, 2015

Theme: Prayer



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, March 1, 2015

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers, Grades 6-8 go directly to classes at 10 am. Grades K-5 will start in Fellowship Hall at 10 am for workshops, then leave for Communion in the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE

His Eye is on the Sparrow
arr. Wilbur Held (b. 1914)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean Veigas

L: Let us come into God's house

P: Let us listen for God's voice.

L; Like the Hebrews, let us listen in the wilderness.

P: Like the disciples let us listen by the sea.

L: Like Mary, let us listen at the manger and the cross.

P: Like Jesus let us listen to the voice of Abba, our Father in Heaven.

***OPENING HYMN #42(Black Hymnal) O for a Thousand Tongue
to Sing**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Loving God, you come to us and urge us to lay our burdens down.

Let us kneel before you now, knowing you can hear what is real for each of us.

**No wish too small,
No concern too insignificant,
No sadness too profound,
No fear too deep for you to hear.**

**Amidst a cosmos beyond our imaging, remind us that all that is, has been and will be
You hold in your loving arms.
You are our God. We are your people.**

In the silence teach us to pray.

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

ANTHEM

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
arr. William Levi Dawson (1899-1990)
Beth Sterling, soprano

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 16:1-8

p.61

SERMON

“The Essence of Prayer”
Susan Cartmell

HYMN #333 (*Red Hymnal*)

**Father Almighty, Bless Us With
Thy Blessing**

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

Our Father, Who in Heaven Art
William Billings (1786)

***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

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Prayer Response

**Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you Lord!**

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Music for the Bread & Cup:

#519 (*Black Hymnal*) Not My Brother, nor My Sister

#506 (*Black Hymnal*) What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us
at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen
our faith. Increase our love for one another. Send us forth into
the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN #93 (*Red Hymnal*)**

**Guide Me, O Thou
Great Jehovah**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

God Be With you Till We Meet Again
Pilgrim Hymnal No. 62

POSTLUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

****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, our church website.

Worship Leader: Jean Veigas

Deacons: Charles Baker, Sally Fitzgerald

Communion: Mary Lou Hughes, Lee McNally, Carol Oberle

Altar Guild: Carol Mille, Jean Veigas

Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel, Robert Kennedy

Flowers: Stacy Caswell

Flower Delivery: Amy Kennedy

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Porter McKeever, the much loved husband of Susan and father of Karen Eichenlaub and her family, Fred, Porter and Jeremy.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month in our church. Along with Baptism, it is one of two sacraments in the United Church of Christ.

At Holy Communion we remember that Jesus ate with his disciples on the last night before he died. In that upper room he transformed the Passover meal something new. As he broke the bread that night he reminded them that it was a symbol for his own body which was broken for all of us. As he lifted the cup of wine he told them that it was a symbol of the covenant- which had come from Abraham and Moses - between us and God.

So when we eat the bread and dip it into the cup we remember that God loved us so much that God sent Jesus. Through Christ we came to know God even better. At this table, through faith, we believe Christ joins us and comes to be our host.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome at this table. We offer children instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion in the second grade. We leave it to families to decide if their children will take the communion, but everyone is welcome at any age. If your child will not be taking communion but would like a short blessing, please tell one of the ministers.

When you come forward the minister will give you the bread and say – "The Bread of Heaven for you". Many people respond saying, "Amen" or "Thanks be to God". Dip the bread into the cup of grape juice. As you do, the Deacon will say, "The cup of salvation for you." Again you may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." You are encouraged to eat the bread soaked in the juice right away, and then return to your seat down the side aisle.

The Congregational Church of Needham
1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts 02492
Telephone 781-444-2510; Fax 781-444-3580
E-mail: office@needhamucc.org
www.needhamucc.org

The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is NAMETAG Sunday. Make a new friend!

TODAY! Adult Education: Education and Race Discussion Forum in Linden

Hall: Guests Cheryl Gosman (staff member at Newman Elementary School) and Dr. Joanne Allen-Willoughby (METCO directory for the Needham Public Schools). Discussion will be focused on the status of equality education and what can be done to create equal opportunities a reality for children.

OPEN HOUSE, Sunday March 8 at 11:30am: We will be hosting an open house in the new building, 1180 Great Plain Ave., right after service. This is the first official opportunity to the Congregation to see the beautiful space. A light lunch is being provided and Board members and Church Officers will be on hand to provide an update on the construction plans and progress.

30 Day Prayer Challenge: Starting in March I invite you to take the 30 Day Prayer Challenge. You are invited to pray for one thing every day for the whole month.

What should I pray for?

- ◆ Think of someone who needs a prayer.
- ◆ Think of a situation that might be troubling you or someone you love.
- ◆ Think of an issue or cause you believe could benefit from prayer.

I think you will be surprised!

Spiritual Practices on Wednesdays

March 4	Prayer Beads - Lead about an ancient practice; make some for yourself.
March 11	Yoga Devotion – Combine body and spirit in some gentle yoga
March 18	Meditation Group – Try some guided meditation.
March 25	Table Spirituality –Enjoy a wholesome meal together and talk food and faith

Altar Flowers: Altar Flowers has two openings, March 8th and March 22nd are available. If anyone would like to have honorarium or memorial flowers these days, contact Stacy Caswell at [781-540-9225](tel:781-540-9225) at slcaswell@gmail.com.

Friendly Society: Check to see if you've put March 5, at 1:15 on your calendar for a glimpse of farm life in a Q&A with Barbara Case whose son has a farm in Pennsylvania. What kind of farm is it? What hours do they keep? What happens in the winter? How did this Needham son get into farming? No doubt you'll have questions of your own.

"Not Your Average Talent Concert" on Saturday, March 21st, 4:00 pm: On Saturday, March 21, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, the Guatemala Partnership will celebrate spring's arrival with a concert and silent auction to benefit education in our

church's partner village of Santa María Tzejá. This family event will feature the diverse talents of many in our church community, including the Salerno family, Soomi Lee Lowry, and Carolyn MacGregor. The silent auction will offer select Guatemalan goods and crafts brought back by recent Partnership delegations, as well as weekend getaways and other goods. Suggested donation for tickets: Individual \$15; Family \$30. Contact: Alan Clayton-Matthews a.clayton-matthews@neu.edu.

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book group meets Thursdays. The group will run from 10:30-12:00 for 9 weeks. We will be reading, The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World by Reverend Desmond Tutu. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net

Friendly Chimers: Friendly Chimers invites anyone interested in a fun, hands-on musical experience to join them in their rehearsals, in the sanctuary. Prerequisites: be able to keep time, enjoy being in a group. For information, contact Joanne Seiden 781-449-6535; jseiden@basiclink.com.

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 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.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed! Be an assistant teacher or lead a workshop (like science, art, theater, games). Please visit our online sign up sheet (just go to www.needhamucc.org/sundayschool and click on Volunteer Sign Up

under Important Links) or contact the office for more information. Just a friendly reminder that all Sunday School families are encouraged to sign up for ANY 7 spots for the whole year. If you don't have kids in the program, we would still LOVE your help!

Lenten Challenge for Kids: During Lent, beginning Feb. 22, kids of all ages are encouraged to memorize Psalm 23. This Sunday, kids can visit Rev. Heike to recite a verse and receive a colorful, inspirational rubber bracelet. Kids will receive handouts in Sunday School today with more information or you can visit www.needhamucc.org/lent

FAMILY PROMISE Training: Training will be held in the Sanctuary at the Church on Tuesday, March 3rd from 7pm to no later than 8:30. Please note this will be the final training held at the Church before our next **Support Week, April 26-May 2**. Contact Susan Kirk, susanckirk@comcast.net for more information.

Guatemala Delegation Returns; Reportback Rescheduled to April 12, 11:30 am: The church's delegation to Santa Maria Tzeja has just returned from an excellent trip. Please join us for the rescheduled Reportback to the congregation on April 12th, 11:30 am, in Linden Hall. Adult and youth travelers will share their photos and impressions in a lively and informative presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

Religious Experience Surveys March 22 and March 29 at 8:30am: Exploring MyReligion.org is run by a group of professors, graduate students and researchers at Boston University. Their goal is to understand how our spiritual minds work. Our members will have an opportunity to take the survey and then participate in a follow up discussion. On March 22 at 8:30am, join members for breakfast and bring your computer or tablet to take the survey with other members. Then on March 29 at 8:30am, come for breakfast and participate in a discussion. By taking the survey you will receive enlightening feedback and graphs and be able to compare your experience with others from Needham UCC. In return for participating in the survey the organization will make a \$20 donation on your behalf. This is brought to you by Dr. Wesley Wildman and Boston University.

CALENDAR March 1st—March 12th

Sunday, March 1st	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Ed: Education and Race, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, March 2nd	9:00 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, March 3rd	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., March 4th	6:00 pm	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thurs., March 5th	10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:00 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Lenten Lunch, <i>Library</i> Friendly Society Meeting, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Meeting, <i>Choir Room</i>
Sunday, March 8th	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 12:00pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Open House, <i>1180 Great Plain Ave.</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Casino Night Senior High Youth Group Casino Night
Monday, March 9th	9:00 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tues., March 10th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., March 11th	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</i> Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thurs., March 12th	10:30 am 12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Faith Circle Book Club, <i>Reception Room</i> Lenten Lunch, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>