



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

March 13, 2016

Theme: Walking with Jesus to the Cross



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 13, 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

"Air" from Componimenti Musicali
Gottlieb Muffat (1690 - 1770)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rob Dunlavey

Leader: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**People: We rejoice in our God, who made a way
through the desert of this world.**

Leader: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of
mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**People: We are the people God has formed through Christ;
we worship him, and we rejoice!**

Leader: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

People: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.

All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***OPENING HYMN # 35 (NCH)**

**O Mighty God, When I Survey
in Wonder**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places,
offering us the grace of new life.
When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.
You call us out of our complacency and routines,
and set us free from our self-imposed bonds.
You fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace.
Guide us through this season of Lent into your light.
Hear us as we pray...**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

7 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

I Caused Thy Grief
Paul Manz(1919 - 2009)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16: 21-25 NT p. 17

SERMON

“Giving Up Life—As We Know It”
Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) #606 (NCH)

Nearer, My God, to You

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

Impromptu D 889, op. 90 III in G Flat Major
Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)

**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 # 191 (NCH)**

Before the Cross, O Jesus

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

God Will Take Care of You
Kenneth Dake(b. 1961)

POSTLUDE

Diapasons and Horns
anonymous

****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: Rob Dunlavey

Deacons: Scott Stewart, Susan Lively

Ushers: Alex Cullen, Frank Luppino, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy

Flowers: Nancy Fischer

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our fathers Al Hyde and Jack Baldwin by Deb and John Baldwin.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: Adult Education class on ONA 101.2: The ONA Team will present a narrated slide program of our church's ONA process, the progress we have made and possibilities for the growth of our ONA ministry. This is particularly informative for people who were not in the church when we went through the ONA study and vote, but all are invited to share their experiences, observations and ideas. Join us at 11:30 for a great lunch and the program in Linden Hall.

"GARDEN OF NEEDHAM" BAKE SALE on Sunday, March 20, 2016:

The 2016 Confirmation Class is holding a Bake Sale after worship on March 20th to support their Confirmation Project: A vegetable garden at the Church. Fresh produce grown in the garden will be donated to the Needham Food Pantry this Summer. Look for a mouth-watering and healthy selection of home baked breads, muffins, scones, cupcakes, quiches and cookies and other gardening themed sweets. Bake sale proceeds will purchase seeds, seedlings and raised bed gardening supplies. Any surplus monies will be donated.

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 March 17th & 24th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Christine Weitzel at cweitzel@verizon.net

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.

TIP for the week: Decide NOT to purchase a new item. Instead, visit a secondhand store or look forward to the Guatemala Yard Sale in May. Purchase Fair Trade chocolate for Easter.

Calling all Soup Makers for Maundy Thursday Dinner, March 24, 2016! We will be gathering for a simple soup dinner on the evening of Maundy Thursday, March 24th at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to contribute a home-

made soup for our supper together, please e-mail Rev. Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org or call 781-444-2510.

The Second Annual Talent Concert supporting the Guatemala Partnership will be held Saturday, April 2, from 4 to 6 pm in the Sanctuary of the church, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall: Last year we had a marvelous turnout of talent and audience. And this year is developing into what will certainly be a fine display of wonderful music making and fellowship. There will also be a silent auction featuring Guatemalan and other crafts and items. Just a few of the folks participating this year include: Carolyn MacGregor, Jenny and Jake George, Heather and Kirby Salerno, and Lucie, Liam and Miles, Stephanie Oddleifson, Betty Blume, Soomi Lee Lowry and myself. More are signing up and their names will be included in the coming weeks. If you have an interest in performing (OR displaying your art work) please contact me at cihunt@gmail.com, or call, 781-540-9113. I am happy to accompany you, and help you find the best key for your success. Looking forward to some wonderful music making.

Blessings and thanks, Cici Hunt

Request for Altar Flower Donations

Altar flower donations are needed for Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10. The cost of the arrangement is \$50 with a check payable to The Congregational Church of Needham. You may call the church office or contact Janet Drake 781-444-2303 or drakejm@gmail.com to receive more details if you are interested in remembering loved ones with flowers on the altar.

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 mil-lerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Family Promise Metrowest 7th Annual Walkathon on April 9, 2016

Beginning at 7:45-10:30am on Natick Common. Be part of this exciting day as volunteers and supporters gather to raise funds and awareness for Family Promise Metrowest, a comprehensive program making a difference in the lives of families who are homeless.

Walk with our church team on the 5K route from the Natick Common to Natick High School and back or sponsor one of our church team walkers. Please go to www.familypromisemetrowest.org/ or stop by our coffee hour table to learn more. Thank you, Susan Kirk

The Deacons would like to invite all members of the congregation to "An Evening of Fellowship and Feedback" on Wed. March 30th in Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8 pm. We particularly urge all leaders - committee chairs and their committee members to attend.

The goal of the evening is to begin a process to share and collect ideas for the future direction of our Church. We would like your feed back on the following three questions:

What practices should we continue and expand upon?

What practices should we start doing that would make our church even more vibrant?

What practices should we stop to ensure that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past?

The ideas collected will help provide direction and a strong foundation that we can use together, and with our interim minister, to start shaping and building the future of our congregation. A light dinner will be served and childcare can be arranged upon request!

Please join us in this next exciting step in our journey together!

Blessings!

The Board of Deacons

CALENDAR March 13th —March 31st

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| Sunday, March 13th Daylight Savings | 10:00am 11:30am 7:00 pm | Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Education—ONA, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i> |
| Monday, March 14th | 9:00 am 6:00 pm | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> |
| Thursday, March 17th | 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> |
| Sunday, March 20th Palm Sunday | 8:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 11:40am 12:00pm | Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Garden of Needham Bake Adult Ed— LGBT Asylum, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Easter Egg Hunt Prep |
| Monday, March 21st | 9:00 am 6:00 pm | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> |
| Tuesday, March 22nd | 7:00 pm | Outreach Meeting |
| Thursday, March 24th Maundy Thursday | 10:30am 6:00 pm 7:30 pm | Faith Circle Book Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Maundy Thursday Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i> |
| Sunday, March 27th Easter Sunday | 9:00 am 10:00am 11:15am | Easter Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> Easter Egg Hunt Easter Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> |
| Monday, March 28th | 9:00 am 6:00 pm | Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> |
| Wed., March 30th | 6:30 pm | Evening of Fellowship and Feedback, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> |
| Thursday, March 31st | 7:30 pm | Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i> |