



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

March 6, 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 6, 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-5 will begin in their classrooms and join their families in the Sanctuary for Communion. Students in grades 6-12 may stay in the Sanctuary with their parents.*

PRELUDE

"Kyrie" from *Messe pour les Convents*
Francois Couperin(1668 - 1733)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peter Atallah

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 # 18 (NCH) Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer**

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

ANTHEM

Devotion
John Ness Beck(1930 - 1987)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 7: 36-50

N.T. P63

SERMON

“Giving Up Our Well-Made Plans”
The Rev. June Cooper

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
David Cherwien(b. 1957)

**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 know how to say to you: Holy are you Lord!**

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Music for the Bread and Cup:

330 (NCH) Let Us Break Bread Together

448 (NCH) Take My Life, God, Let It Be

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 # 397 (NCH) Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Vater unser im Himmelreich(Choral Variation)
Dietrich Buxtehude(1637 - 1707)

****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: Peter Atallah

Deacons: Joanne Seiden, Kirby Salerno

Communion Servers: Sally Fitzgerald, Sunu Yeh, Dibby Moder

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

Altar Guild: Denice Koljonen, Carol Miller

Flowers: Nancy Fischer

Flower Delivery: Amy Kennedy

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Porter McKeever by Susan McKeever and Karen Eichenlaub and her family.

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 to 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 Hope". 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 blessing 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
E-mail: office@needhamucc.org
www.needhamucc.org*

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

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

The February delegation has completed its visit with Santa Maria Tzeja. 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 plan to join us!

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: Turn down your thermostat by at least one degree. Also, turn down the setting on your hot-water heater.

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 homemade 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 cicihunt@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.

Whether to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion, an opportunity awaits to accommodate your wishes. Please find an Altar Flower Donation Form in the circular rack in the Narthex. You may complete it and put it in the manila envelope provided in the rack. The Flower Team looks forward to acting on your behalf.

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

CALENDAR March 6th—March 20th

Sunday, March 6th	10:00am 11:30am 11:40am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Report Back, <i>Linden Hall</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Junior High Youth Group Senior High Youth Group
Monday, March 7th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, March 8th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wed., March 9th	7:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Thursday, March 10th	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 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> Adult Ed– LGBT Asylum, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Easter Egg Hunt Prep