



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

March 8, 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 8, 2015

10:00am

Children are always welcome in Worship with their parents/guardians. Childcare is available in the crib/toddler room on the lower level for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers go directly to classes downstairs at 10 am. Grades 6-8 are in Stevenson Hall at 10 am. Grades K-5 will start in the Sanctuary at 10 am, then leave for Bible Village.

PRELUDE

Were You There?
arr. Wilbur Held (b. 1914)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Ellis

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 HYMN #251 (Red Hymnal) Holy, Holy, Holy!
Lord God Almighty**

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 imagining, 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

Choral Response

God

My Savior and My

Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

Bruce Goody, flute

ANTHEM

Leanin' on the Everlasting Arms

arr. Geordie Roberts

Shepherd's Staff Choir

TIME FOR CHILDREN

(Children dismissed to Bible Village during hymn)

CHILDREN'S HYMN #526 *(Black Hymnal)*

**We Are Marching in
the Light of God**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:7-21

p. 5

SERMON

“Treasure in Heaven: Advice on Prayer”

Susan Cartmell

HYMN # 520 (*Black Hymnal*) **Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ**

MORNING PRAYER

Heike Werder

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.

Leader: Let us pray.

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

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

William Billings (1746-1800), arr. Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

**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 #423** (*Black Hymnal*)

Great Is Your Faithfulness

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Irish Blessing

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

POSTLUDE

Aria

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Bruce Goody, flute

**You are invited to stand*

Special thanks to Bruce Goody, for sharing his time and talents with us this morning.

- 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: Mike Ellis

Deacons: Stephanie Oddleifson, Claudia Darmofal

Altar Guild: Val Kistler

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

Flowers: Stacy Caswell

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of George Sesso, loving father and grandfather

Spring into Our New Space



Open House at 1180 Great Plain Avenue
Sunday March 8th 11:30am

We will be hosting an open house in the new building on Sunday, March 8th right after the service. This will be the first official opportunity for the Congregation to see the new beautiful space. A light lunch will be provided and members of the Board along with Church Officers will be on hand to give you an update on the construction plans and progress.

Please join us for this festive celebration!

*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! 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 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

Adult Ed: Diversity in Needham: Sunday March 15, 11:30am: The guest presenter will be Ramin Abrishamian, member of the Human Rights Committee of the town of Needham. The Town of Needham's Human Rights Committee strives to reaffirm the worth and dignity of every human being. The diversity of our community is embraced and celebrated through the following activities: Education, Community Outreach, and Community Response. Come and join a discussion to hear what the HRC of our town is working on and how we can support them in their efforts.

Men's Breakfast Fellowship, Sunday March 15th at 8:15am: We welcome all church men to breakfast. The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together in the Library on the 3rd Sunday of the month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. We welcome men of all ages and accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion. Contact: John Baldwin (jsbaldwin@comcast.net) or Rob Dunlavy (rob@robd.com) for more information.

Once in a While Choir, March 15 9:15 am Fellowship Hall: The Once In a While Choir will sing at the beginning of the church service next Sunday morning, March 15th. Those interested in joining in the singing fun, please come to rehearse with us. It's a marvelous song that will 'pump you up' - lift you up as you "Raise Your Voices."

Looking forward to seeing you next Sunday, 9:15, March 15, in Fellowship Hall.
~~ Cici Hunt

"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, under the direction of Cici Hunt. The silent auction will offer select Guatemalan handicrafts, as well as weekend getaways and other donated items. Suggested donation: Individual \$15; Family \$30. Tickets available from Brenda Metzler or Cici Hunt, or order on-line: www.guatemalapartners.org. For questions, 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

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 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 8th—March 21st

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, 1180 Great Plain Ave. Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Junior High Youth Group Night Senior High Youth Group 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	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</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>
Sunday, March 15th	8:15 am 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Once in a While Choir, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Adult Education: Diversity in Needham, <i>Linden Hall</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Monday, March 16th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Wed., March 18th	6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Wednesday Connect, <i>Linden Hall</i> Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Thurs., March 19th	10:30 am 12:00 pm 1:15 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 Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Saturday, March 21st	4:00 pm	Guatemala Partnership Event, <i>Sanctuary</i>