



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

April 10, 2016

Theme: Words of the Resurrected Christ



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, April 10, 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

Prelude in C Major
Anton Bruckner (1824 - 1896)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Normile

Leader: Jesus walked the earth with God's message of peace,
blessing all creation -

People: Offering abundant life for all!

Leader: Jesus preached God's love-- justice for the poor, full sharing of earth's bounty;

People: He rattled the authorities with hope and healing, forgiveness and welcome!

Leader: Worldly powers tried to stop him: led him to a tree and crucified him; laid him in the earth: a garden tomb. Three days in the earth, and then -

People: Like the seed which dies to live, Jesus arose to new life!

Leader: Let us celebrate the risen Christ, alive in our midst today.

People: May we be hands and feet, hearts and minds of that risen Christ, proclaiming the good news of abundant life for all.

***OPENING HYMN # 185 (PH) Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain**

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 of grace, form us into your Easter people.

Too often we hang on to our own fear and despair.

Forgive us when we fail to love others as you love us.

**Help us to live into the mystery of resurrection and new life
so that we may embody hope.**

Breathe into us your spirit,

as we live out your good news in this world.

Hear us, O Lord, as we pray ...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

7 Fold Amen

John Stainer(1840 - 1901)

ANTHEM

Make a Joyful Noise

Mark Burrows (b.1971)

Joyful Noise and Hallelujah Choirs

Trumpet - Jeff Hoefler

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children.

CHILDREN'S HYMN #325 (NCH)

**Child of Blessing,
Child of Promise**

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!

Fresh from God, refresh our Spirit, into joy and laughter lead.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24: 36-43

NT, p. 86

SERMON

“Christ’s Gift of Courage”

Heike Werder

HYMN (seated) # 238 (NCH)

Now the Green Blade Rises

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 # 521 (NCH)

In Solitude

**In solitude, in solitude, I come to God in prayer.
In silence and simplicity, my spirit blossoms there.**

**Whene’er the world is troubling me, and stress is all around,
I seek the presence of my God, and healing light is found.**

OFFERTORY

Anthem

Ride on King Jesus

traditional spiritual arr Howard Helvey

***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 # 218 (PH)**

O Jesus, I have Promised

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

This Joyful Eastertide
Hymn tune - VRUECHTEN

POSTLUDE

Festival Postlude
Domenico Zipoli (1688 - 1726)

****You are invited to stand.***

NCH stands for New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal) and PH stands for Pilgrim Hymnal (Red Hymnal)

Special thanks to Jeff Hoefler, guest trumpeter, for sharing his gift of music 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 Assistant: Mike Normile

Deacons: Rick Devereux, Joanne Seiden

Ushers: Alex Cullen, David Libby, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser

Altar Guild: Diane Myers

Flowers: Jan Drake

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and dedicated with love to the Sessos and Ruggieros in our lives and in our memories.

Faith Weekend of Action

This weekend, April 9-10, all over the Commonwealth, congregations of many faiths are lifting up the issue of transgender rights. The campaign called “Faith Weekend of Action” is to bring awareness to the bill in the legislature now which would provide access to and protections in places of public accommodations for transgender people and those who are gender non-conforming. Areas of public accommodations include public transportation, retail stores, parks, restaurants, medical offices, theaters and hotels.

Freedom Massachusetts, the organizing body for this legislation, hopes that people of faith will be called to stand for these rights as human rights and see supporting them as an expression of one’s faith. It hopes that people of faith will pray for and work for fair laws that provide health, safety, respect and peace of mind for transgender and gender non-conforming people.

You may sign on as a supporter of the transgender legislation and write your legislators and the governor at freedommassachusetts.org. It’s an easy “click” on this site.

On April 24, we hope you will join us in a program of understanding and education when we welcome a Wellesley neighbor who will share her experiences as a transgender person of faith.

We are all made in God’s expansive image. Let us pray that all expressions of God’s image may be honored, protected and loved.

Blessings,

Your Open and Affirming (ONA) Ministry Team

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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- Environmental Ministries Team invites you to view True Cost on at 11:30 in Linden Hall

A movie about the environmental, social, and economic impacts of "fast fashion", the current obsession with purchasing the latest trends in fashion. Please join us for lunch and movie after church.

God Is Still Speaking - A Transgender Journey with God April 24 at 11:30 in Linden Hall

Some of us know transgender people and others do not, or may not be aware that we do. We may know little about what transgender means or we may be standing as allies with trans* people. In order to advance our understanding and appreciation of all God's children, the ONA Team is hosting Cynthia Hansen, a parent of two sons and a member of the Wellesley Village Church. CeCe will share her insights as a transgender woman and a person of faith. Please come hear about her journey into being fully herself. You will be richly rewarded. Lunch provided.

Guatemala Yard Sale Save the Date and Donations

If your thoughts are turning to spring cleaning, please save your household 'treasures' for the Guatemala Yard Sale (Sat. May 14, 9am - 2 pm, at Caryl and Dave Johnson's). More details in the April FOCUS. For questions, contact Brenda Metzler: bmetzler7@verizon.net.

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!

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!

Our Sunday School classes are 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 milerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Circle of Hope Mother's Day "Baby Shower"

In honor of Mother's Day, our church will sponsor a "Baby Shower" to create Welcome Baskets for babies born to the clients of Circle of Hope. They are looking for new baby bottles, wipes, Vaseline/A&D ointment, new bath towels with hoods, face clothes and blankets to assist mothers with their new babies. Other needed items include new onesies (newborn, 3-6 month and 6-9 month). A box will be in the entry to the sanctuary [on April 24](#), [May 1](#) and [May 8](#). Items will be delivered to Circle of Hope the following week. If you have questions, please contact Amy Massey at amyemassey@gmail.com.

Spring Outreach Opportunities

Saturday, May 7: Volunteer with City Mission Society for a Boston Immersion Service Opportunity at Pilgrim Church in Dorchester. The day begins [at 9:30 a.m.](#) with volunteers helping to prepare the Church's weekly community meal that typically serves over 100 local residents. Volunteers will also join the guests for a sit-down meal. The day ends after cleanup, no later than 3pm. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, along with a \$20 fee to help defray the cost of the program. Deadline to sign up is April 15. Contact Betsy Ericksen, bericksen@citymissionboston.org.

June Book Discussion Group: City Mission's Executive Director, Rev. June Cooper, who preached at our church in March, will lead a three-session discussion group on Robert D. Lupton's provocative book, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help*. The author shares his insights and experience that some well-intentioned charity and volunteer service can actually undermine the aspirations of people they intend to help.

Enrollment is first-come/first-served and limited to 20 participants. The group will meet for three sessions [on June 6](#), [June 13](#), and [June 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.](#) at Newton Highlands Congregational Church, [54 Lincoln St., Newton Highlands](#). To enroll in the group, please contact Peney McClary, pmclary@citymissionboston.org.

Talent Show Gratitude!

The Guatemala Partnership wants to thank Director Cici Hunt and all the musical contributors, young and young-at-heart, who made the recent Not Your Average Talent Show concert and Silent Auction such an uplifting community event and successful fundraiser. It is a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate the blessings of our generous and multi-talented church community! And the education projects in our sister village will greatly benefit from the funds raised (over \$3,200!). Thank you all.

GREAT
SATURDAY
MAY 7TH
5 PM

CHILI

ARE YOU CHEF
OR TASTER?

COOK-OFF



It's the showdown of the century!

Is the best chili made with 100% grass-fed beef or a good, old-fashioned mixture of beans and spices? Is it slowly simmered for 8 hours or cooked on high for 45 minutes? You be the judge at our very first Great Chili Cook-off!

Tickets will be on sale in Fellowship Hall beginning in mid-April.

Tasters and cooks needed!

Want to throw your chef's hat in the ring and submit a pot of your chili? Email office@needhamucc.org to reserve a space!

CALENDAR April 10th—April 24th

Sunday, April 10th	10:00am 11:30am 11:40am 7:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> EMT—True Cost, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, April 11th	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thursday, April 14th	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	The Center Open House Choir Practice, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Sunday, April 17th	8:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 11:40am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Worship Service—Hymn Sing, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday, April 18th		Church Offices Closed
Tuesday, April 19th	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Wed., April 20th	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Thursday, April 21st	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Friday, April 22nd	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Sunday, April 24th	10:00am 11:30am 11:40am	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> God is Still Speaking— A Transgender Journey with God, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Friendly Chimers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i>