

BENEDICTION

Congregational Response: Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!

Rev. Jim

POSTLUDE

Festival March

J. Baptiste Calkin

Worship Assistant: Diana Conroy

Deacons: Jean Veigas, Claudia Darmofal

Altar Guild: Laura Cullen

Ushers: Craig Morrison, Valerie Kistler, Rob Blauvelt

Flowers: Gail Browne

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robert T. Smart by Haynes family.

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.

Open and Affirming Statement

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.

(This statement adopted in 2000, reflects the welcome of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their friends and families.)

New or Visiting Our Church

Welcome to all who are new or here for the first time! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please email Rev. Jim at revjim@needhamucc.org, Rev Heike at revheike@needhamucc.org or call the office at 781-444-2510 to set up a conversation.

For updates on church life, our family ministries, Christian Education and Youth Ministries follow us at: **@NeedhamUCC on Instagram**
Congregational Church of Needham UCC on Facebook
@needhamucc on Twitter www.needhamucc.org

Please silence your cell phone before attending the service. You can Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here. Feel free to Tweet or Instagram during the service. If you would like or need a hearing device an usher will be able to assist you. Children's Childcare is offered for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Nursery located downstairs during the service. After Time For Children, students are dismissed to their classrooms for Bible Village. On Communion Sundays, students attend Bible Village first and then join the Worship Service for Communion.

10:00 a.m. – 5

Parish and Pastoral Relations Committee

Committee Members: Tom Mollerus, Fred Moder and Diana Conroy

The Parish and Pastoral Relations Committee is a standing committee chosen by the Board and Deacons that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor/s and members of the congregation. The committee does not seek to take the place of communications between the congregation and the pastoral staff. Congregants who wish to communicate with this committee may send an email to prrc@needhamucc.org. **Please do not use email to discuss sensitive or confidential matters; just use the email to set up an appointment for a telephone or in-person meeting.**

Board Members

Moderator - Jackie Allen, Clerk - Keith McClelland

Term Ends 2018 Michael Normile, Blair Wentworth, Sharmon Priaux

Term Ends 2019 Jim Conroy, Diane Rees, Kristin Mollerus

Term Ends 2020 Howard Sesso, Kenneth Allen, Barbra Morton, Amanda Angel

Deacons

Term Ends 2018 Lee McNally, Charlie Baker, Claudia Darmofal, Susan Lively, Kirby Salerno

Term Ends 2019 Rick Devereux, Dibby Moder, Scott Stewart, Carol Miller, Jean Veigas

Term Ends 2020 Kevin Blume, Paul Brown, Jane Clayton- Matthews, Sue Cotton, Lucy Slosser

Rev. Jim Mitulski's Office Hours

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment during his office hours of Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm; Thursday 2-5pm

Evening hours are also available by appointment.

*If these times do not work for you please contact the office for alternate availability.

Staff

Interim Senior Minister
The Rev. Jim Mitulski
RevJim@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder
RevHeike@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 105

Director of Children & Youth Ministries
Madelyn Downer
Youth@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 104

Music Director
Valerie Becker
musicdirector@needhamucc.org

Organist/Accompanist
Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator
Danielle Jurdan
Office@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant & Bookkeeper
Cindy Sullivan
Office2@needhamucc.org
781-444-2510, ext. 100

Development Consultant
Irma Bauer-Levesque

Handyman
Bill Donovan

Housekeeper
Sanira Alchaar

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www.needhamucc.org
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Twitter @needhamucc Instagram: needhamucc
781-444-2510 office@needhamucc.org
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

10:00 a.m. – 6



The Congregational Church of Needham

An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 28, 2017 10:00 a.m.

Observing Memorial Day

Observing Ascension Day

The Last Sunday After Easter

He was the first that flew
(the heavenly pointer)

but not content to leave
the scattered flock,

He journeys back and forth
between the poles of heaven and earth forever,

He was the first to wing
from that sad Tree,

but having flown, the Tree of Life
bears rose from thorn

and fragrant vine,
from barren wood;

He was the first to say,
not to the chosen few,

his faithful friends,
the wise and good,

but to an outcast and a vagabond,
to-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.

from *The Flowering of the Rod*
H.D., 1944

PRELUDE Adagio *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Jim

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: Let us pray together

People: Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with Christ continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #301 (*Black, New Century*)
Crown with Your Richest Crowns

TIME FOR CHILDREN
Children leave for Bible Village after Time for Children

CHILDREN'S HYMN #31 (*Black, New Century*)
All Things Bright and Beautiful

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.
(repeat)*

ANTHEM Inscription of Hope *Z. Randall Stroope (b.1953)*

SELECTION OF READINGS

Luke 24:44-53

Then Jesus said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what God promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While Jesus was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the reign of God. While staying with them,

Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the One who sent him. "This," Jesus said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Jesus, is this the time when you will restore authority to Israel?" Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that God has set by God's own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While Jesus was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two creatures in white robes stood by them. They said, "People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

HYMN #257 (*Black, New Century*) **Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!**

SERMON Jim Mitulski

HYMN **God, teach us peacemaking**

48 **God, teach us peacemaking**

1. God, teach us - peace-mak - ing, jus - tice, and love. Blessed by God's
2. God, teach us peace-mak - ing in church and home, in school and
3. God, teach us peace-mak - ing in ev - ery role, in each re -
4. God, teach us peace-mak - ing un - to the end: pa - rent or

teach - ing, we're lift - ed a - bove all thought of ven - geance or
hall, be - neath Cap - i - tol dome, in shop and in - dus - try,
la - tion - ship make peace our goal; yet give us in - sight that
child, or as strang - er or friend. Fill all our hearts with the

en - vy or hate; help us, your chil - dren, sha - lom to cre - ate.
ci - ty and farm, show us the path - ways that cause no one harm.
keeps us a - ware, jus tice and mer - cy in bal ance to share.
pow'r of sha - lom, liv - ing to - geth - er, the whole world our home.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

*Concerns and Celebrations
Prayers for Our Friends and Families, Our Church, Our Community, and the
World.*

A Prayer for Manchester after the Bombing
Compassionate God,
whose Love dares to dwell in the midst of us.
Be with the people of Manchester today.
Grieve with us in our grief,

search with us as we seek out lost loved ones,
wait with us in the anxiety of unknowing.

Help us to give thanks for the people of Manchester -
warm, open, generous and resilient;
Help us to draw on the spirit of solidarity
and the defiance in loss of this great city.
Be with our emergency services
in this time of trial.

In the midst of our fears,
and the fierce pain of loss;
when our commitment to justice
and mercy and kindness
is tested by death and terror,
be with us, O Lord.

Today let us mourn, let us weep;
meet us in our anger,
fear and disbelief.

Tomorrow help us be makers of your compassionate world. Amen
By Rachel Mann, priest in the Diocese of Manchester

A Prayer for Memorial Day

O God, the Sovereign of glory, in whose hands are the living and the dead :We give you thanks for all those who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. (*a period of silence as we remember our dead*) Grant them your mercy and the light of your presence; give us a sense of your will and purpose that we may understand the work you have begun in them will be perfected through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, in whom all strife is resolved. Amen.

*Lord's Prayer (please pray whatever form is familiar to you; many choose to pray
Our Father, Our Mother, Our Father and Mother, Our Creator, or Our Maker, or
Father/Mother God...debts/debtors or trespasses/those who trespass...)*

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

*In each of our pews today is a black friendship book which we encourage you to
fill out and pass to the person next to you during the offering. If you have been
with us before, just put down your name, but if you are new
today, please let us know who you are. Thanks!*

Offertory Anthem Chester *William Billings (1746 - 1800)*

***Doxology** tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

***CLOSING HYMN #594** (*Black, New Century*)
How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

Vacation Bible School | August 2017

SUPERHERO CENTRAL

Have you always wanted super powers? Wouldn't it be fun if you could save the world?



At VBS: Superhero Central, we'll learn about all the super powers we already have! Love, Friendship, Hope, and Faith all work together to make the world a better place!

Our days will be filled with lots of fun arts and crafts, games and playground time, cooking class and snack time.

Students will bring brown bag lunches. Gluten-free snacks will be provided.

August 21 - 25, 2017

NEW TIME: Drop-off at 9:00 AM; Pick-up at 2:00 PM

Rates:

Get one day free when you sign up for the whole week!

\$30/day or \$120/week for the first child

Family discount:

\$20/day or \$80/week for additional children

Registration is open!

VBS: Superhero Central is open to children ages 3-6.

Children must be toilet trained.

Have a student age 7 - 14? Check out Sensational Summer

Singing program offered at the Congregational Church of

Needham at the same time!

If this program is cost-prohibitive for your

family, please reach out to Maddie

Downer, our youth director, regarding

scholarships at youth@needhamucc.org.

Please put "VBS Scholarship" in the sub-

ject line.



Sunday May 28th Memorial Day	8:30 am 10:00am 11:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>
Monday May 29th		Memorial Day, <i>Office Closed</i>
Thursday June 1st	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch w/ Heike, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Saturday June 3rd	2:30 pm	Youth Sunday Practice
Sunday June 4th Confirmation & Youth Sunday	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Youth Band Practice Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Membership Meeting Meditation Group w/ Sue Findlay Movie – "Documented", <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday June 5th	9:00 am 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday June 5th	6:00 pm	Baby Basics Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thursday June 8th	7:00 pm	CE Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Sunday June 11th Communion Sunday	8:30 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Congregational Update and All Church BBQ
Monday June 12th	9:00 am 7:00 pm 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>1154 Reception</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Immigration Task Force, <i>Library</i>
Tuesday June 13th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Wednesday June 14th	7:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i>
Saturday June 17th	6:00 pm	Guatemala Partnership Family Social, <i>505 Great Plain Ave.</i>
Sunday June 18th Father's Day	8:15 am 8:30 am 10:00am 11:30 am	Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

May 28, 2017



The Congregational
Church of Needham

Events & Announcements

Bylaws Review

A team of Deacons and Board Members has initiated a review of our Church's bylaws to identify areas where updates would be helpful. The intent is to have any proposed changes ready for Congregational review in the late fall and for a vote at next January's Annual Meeting.

The team is not contemplating changing the Church's governing structure. An example of a helpful change we are considering is that in the case a board/deacons/committee member resigns, at the next Annual Meeting a new member will be elected to serve only the remaining years of the resigned members term, and not the standard 3-year term. This will prevent too many members of a committee all being on the same 3-year cycle. We are also evaluating how to make the Parish and Pastoral Relations Committee (PPRC) a permanent Committee of the Congregation.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the team, feel free to contact any one of its members: Susan Lively, Mike Normile, Sharmon Prialux, Howie Sesso, and Scott Stewart.

You can find a copy of the current Bylaws on the church web site. <http://needhamucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/BYLAWS-revision-2011.pdf>

Or, from the Church home page (needhamucc.org) mouse over "Come" in the upper left. A pop-up menu will appear, click on "Who We Are". The "Who We Are" page will appear. Click on "Our Church Bylaws" near the top.

Partner-Family Letters Due June 4!

Partner-family letters (and scholarship donor letters) are due by Sunday, June 4, in order to get them all translated and ready for the August delegation to deliver. Please mail them to: davebjohnson77@gmail.com

Save the Date! June 11th Congregational Update and Barbeque.

Please RSVP to the office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510 so we can plan for food and seating.

Altar Flower Donations—June 11

Whether to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion, an opportunity awaits to accommodate your wishes. We have a vacancy in the month of June. Anyone interested may contact the church office at 781-444-2510. Additionally, an altar flower donation form can be found in the circular rack in the Narthex. You may complete a form and put it in the manila envelope. The Flower Committee looks forward to acting on your behalf.

Bible Study Group Sundays at 11:30 a.m., Conference Room

We are currently reading the book of Genesis a few chapters at a time. We will continue meeting until the end of June, then start up again after Labor Day with another section of the Bible. We love having new people come try us out!

New Directory 2017

We will be issuing a new member directory this year. Please send your family pictures and any updated contact information into the church office so they can be used in the directory.

Music

Chancel Choir

Please come sing with us! Chancel choir rehearsals for the months of May & June will be at 8:30 on Sunday morning in the sanctuary. We would love to have you be part of our choir!

Sensational Summer Singing!

Opportunities to learn and perform outstanding choral music all in the span of one week don't come along very often but they will this summer in Needham. What better way to end an enjoyable summer than by spending time with other kids who also enjoy making music?

This choir which is open to children ages 7 – 14 will run from 9am – 2pm from August 21 – 25. The program will include choral singing, music literacy, movement and percussion. Please contact Valerie Becker, Program Director, at musicdirector@needhamucc.org if you're interested! To register go to <http://needhamucc.org/nss/>

Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Bible Village Sings in Church

Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate the children, youth and Confirmation class. Our Bible Village students will lead the congregation in singing, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing".

CE and Family Ministries Calendar:

Sunday, May 28	Bible Village Camp Sunday
Sunday, June 4	Celebration of Children, Youth & Confirmation
Sunday, June 11	Bible Village Camp Sunday, All Church BBQ
Sunday, June 18	Bible Village Camp Sunday

August Vacation Bible School: Super Hero Central

August VBS will be offered to students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. We will learn how Jesus is a super power. Lots of games, crafts, and other fun activities. Students will bring brown bag lunches, snacks will be served. Please register online at www.needhamucc.org/VBS.

Dates: Monday August 21– Monday August 25

Times: Drop Off at 9am / Pick Up at 2pm

Stewardship & Attendance

5/21/2017 Collections* = \$1,572

5/21/2017 Worship Attendance = 118 people

April Electronic Pledge Amount: \$12,992.15

Please contact the church office 781-444-2510 or office@needhamucc.org to find out how you can give electronically.

*Collection amount does not include additional pledges received electronically.

Our current pledge amount for 2017 is \$367,804.00. This represents a budget shortfall of \$56,459.00 for the year.

Sensational Summer Singing | August 2017

NEEDHAM SUMMER SINGERS!



Opportunities to learn and perform outstanding choral music all in the span of one week don't come along very often, but they will this summer in Needham. What better

way to end an enjoyable summer than by spending time with other kids who also like to make music? That's what the newly formed Needham Summer Singers is all about. The group, which will hold rehearsals and a performance at the Congregational Church of Needham, is a community program offered by the church.

August 21 - 25, 2017

TIME: Drop-off at 9:00 AM; Pick-up at 2:00 PM

Needham Summer Singers is open to children ages 7 – 14 from Needham and communities in the Boston area. The program will include choral singing, music literacy, movement and percussion. The deadline for registration is June 2, 2017. The cost is \$300 and registration forms are available from the church office or on www.needhamucc.com/nss. To learn more about this program please contact the office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510.

Directing the program is Valerie J. Becker, A lifelong musician, Ms. Becker has worked closely with some of the world's finest singers and instrumentalists, including singer Kathleen Battle, cellist Yo Yo Ma and violinist Midori. Ms. Becker is looking forward to this week of music making because it will bring children together who have a common goal and foster new friendships. "I want children to love singing and know that they can accomplish anything they want to," Becker says, "The bar is always going to be high because the more that they can do, the better they're going to feel about what they can accomplish."

