



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

May 3, 2015

Theme: Freedom



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, May 3, 2015

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers and Grades 6-8 go directly to classes at 10 am. Grades K-5 will start in the chapel at 10 am for workshops, then leave for Communion in the Sanctuary.

PRELUDE

Verset
Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Ellis

Leader: Come, people of God; Christ has set us free.

People: We gather today, to celebrate life.

Leader: Come, people of God; gather at the well.

People: We gather to learn about the Bible.

Leader: Come, people of God; rejoice in the freedom that faith provides.

People: We come to sing our praises to God.

***OPENING HYMN #304** (*Black Hymnal*)

**All Hail the Power of
Jesus' Name**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

We thank you, O God, for the gifts of our lives –

The freedom to pursue our dreams;

The freedom to worship as we choose;

The freedom from want;

The freedom to choose our life's path;

The freedom to exercise power over others.

Forgive us when we forget all the gifts you have given us.

Forgive us when we squander this freedom we have.

Forgive us when we choose to dwell in prisons of our making.

As we pray, awaken us to the possibilities in our lives...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus
William Byrd (1539?-1623)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 14:10-18 O.T. p. 59

SERMON

“Ambivalent About Freedom”
Susan Cartmell

HYMN #572 (*Black Hymnal*)

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

In Remembrance
Buryl Red

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

Distribution of the Bread and Cup:

Music for the Bread and Cup:

#293 (Black Hymnal) Sweet, Sweet Spirit

#327 (Black Hymnal) Jesus Loves Me

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 #377** (*Black Hymnal*) **Forward Through the Ages**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace I Leave With You
Amy Beach (1867-1944)

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune
Alfred Fedak (b. 1953)

**You are invited to stand*

- 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: Chris Nyland, Lee McNally

Communion Servers: Claudia Darmofal, Chris Nyland,
Charles Baker, Peter Atallah

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy, Chris Arren

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

Flowers: Chris Arren

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of loved ones by Sue Findlay and Findlay-Walters 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 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 Heaven for you". 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 salvation 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.

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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
Kristen Hydinger, Interim Youth Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Party for Rev. Jamie - May 3rd 11:30am: A Farewell party for Rev. Jamie has been planned and will take place on May 3rd following Worship at the home of **Dave and Caryl Johnson at 505 Great Plain Ave.** Please bring a side dish or dessert. All are welcome!

Women's Retreat 2015! It is not too late to sign up for this year's women's retreat at Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod. We start with dinner on **Friday, May 8, 2015 and end by Saturday afternoon at 2 pm.** It is a quick and fun get-away in the midst of a busy time.

We will be discussing the book by Anne Morrow Lindbergh "Gifts from the Seas." a few copies of the book have been placed in our bookstore for purchase. Please contact Heike if you are interested in going. There is room available.

Do you like to get dirty? Do you like to garden? Or maybe you are just looking for a service opportunity.....: if so, please join us at the **Needham Community Farm** on **Saturday, May 9th, Saturday, June 13th or Saturday, July 11th from 9am-12pm.** The Outreach Committee has created this opportunity to support our giving theme of aiding the fight against hunger in our local community. The Needham Community Farm's mission is to deepen our community's connection to nature and the food system by providing farm based education and increasing access to healthy produce. The Needham Community Farm donates all fresh produce to the **Needham Community Council Food Pantry**, servicing 200 Needham Families a month. If interested, please sign up at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0844A8AA23A2FD0-outreach. Questions, please contact Heidi Wiesel at Heidi.wiesel@gmail.com or 781-467-9503.

Adult Education—Stepping Back into Church History: As many of you know, a group of people from the church are going to Germany with Rev. Heike in June. They will be walking in the footsteps of Martin Luther. In preparation for the trip, Rev. Heike is hosting a series on the Protestant Reformation and the Life of the great Reformer Martin Luther. This series is open to everyone in the church!

Part two of Martin Luther—The Reluctant Revolutionary will be shown on May 10, 2015 right after church. Come to Linden Hall for lunch and presentation by 11:30 am.

Annual Guatemala Yard Sale (Sat., May 16th, 9-2, 505 Great Plain Ave.) -- Donations (and Volunteers) Needed: We are seeking items in clean, working condition (no clothing), including: Children's gear, toys/games, sports equipment, household items, collectible or vintage items, jewelry, artwork, DVD's, books, bikes, electronics (no TV's or computers), tools, garden supplies, outdoor

furniture, or small indoor furniture items. Drop-Off Info: Beginning 7:00 pm, Sunday, May 10th thru Noon, Friday, May 15th at the Johnson's garage (505 Great Plain). For any questions or to volunteer, please contact Brenda Metzler at: bmetzler7@verizon.net or (781) 449-5696. Don't miss this opportunity to donate, volunteer and/or shop to support education in Santa María Tzejá.

School supply drive for Guatemala: The Confirmation Class of 2015, as their service project, is collecting supplies for the school children in our partner village in Santa Maria Tzeja. We don't think twice about pencils and paper, but in other places in the world they make a huge difference! Our confirmands will hand out flyers with a list of school supplies needed this Sunday before worship and a list will also be included in FOCUS. Starting May 10th, there will be a collecting box in the Narthex. Please bring items to church throughout the month of May! We hope that you will support us in our efforts. Thank you - The Confirmation Class 2015.

New Grief Group : Grief does not end with a funeral. When you lose someone you love it takes a long time to adjust to the change. Whether the grief you experience is a death or other loss, sometimes it helps to know you are not alone. Living with someone who has memory loss is a grief process. Often it helps to be with others who have some similar experiences. If you would be interested in joining a prayer support group for those who are grieving please speak to Rev. Susan or send her an e-mail – revsusan@needhamucc.org.

Your Legacy?: Have you considered leaving the church in your will? For more information contact Len Chang. adelennig@verizon.net. Thanks for considering this important way to light the path for others who follow.

Faith Circle Book Club: The Faith Circle Book group is starting a new book. We will be reading “Here If You Need Me” by Kate Braestrup. We will be meeting on May 21st to discuss the book. 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: Have your kids been inspired by the wonderful music at church, but not sure if they can join? They can! Youth choirs meet every Sunday (including vacation week), and start a new piece every 5 or 6 weeks. Singers develop good technique, improve listening skills, and have fun working as a team. Youth choirs next sing in the sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 10th. Please speak with director, Valerie Becker, about your interest at any time. davalvideo@verizon.net

Joyful Noise (K-2nd) 9:15-9:45

Hallelujah Choir (3rd-6th) 11:30-12:00
Shepherd's Staff (7th -12th) 12:00-1:00

Adult Bible Study: Sunday 11:30 Conference Room: Gospel of John. We will meet in the reception room from 11:30-12:30 after church to continue our study of the book of John. This is a great opportunity to discuss your spiritual questions with other people of faith. Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us. 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!

FIRST FORMAL COMMUNION

The following children have completed the Communion Workshop and they will be leading the congregation to the altar for the sacrament.

Anna Busby

Kate Busby

Jack Henderson

Normandie Henderson

Connor Hurley

Jason Monteiro

Charlie Todd

Owen Ward

Adeline Wiesel

CALENDAR May 3rd—May 14th

Sunday, May 3rd	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00 am 11:30 am 11:45 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise, Hallelujah, Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal Combined, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Farewell for Jamie Klopotoski, <i>Caryl & Dave Johnson's Home (505 Great Plain Ave.)</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd's Staff Choir, <i>Choir Room</i> Guatemala Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, May 4th	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:15 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> EMT Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, May 5th	10:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters, Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Deacon's Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., May 6th	6:30 pm	Junior Youth Group, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
Thursday, May 7th	12:00 pm 1:15 pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>Library</i> Friendly Society, <i>Library</i> Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Friday, May 8th		Women's Retreat, <i>Craigville Center, Cape Cod</i>
Sunday, May 10th	9:00 am 9:15 am 10:00am 11:30am 11:45am 12:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Joyful Noise, Hallelujah, Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal Combined, <i>Choir Room</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Adult Ed: Back in Church History, <i>Linden Hall</i> Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Friendly Chime Ringers, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd's Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Monday, May 11th	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> Finance Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, May 12th	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wed., May 13th	6:30 pm	Junior Youth Group, <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
Thursday, May 14th	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>