



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

MAY 4, 2014

Theme: Stewardship



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 4, 2014

10:00am

Childcare for infants and toddlers is available downstairs. Preschoolers meet for class downstairs at 10am. Grades K-6 go directly to chapel at 10am and will join their families in worship for communion. 7th-8th graders proceed to Stevenson Hall and 9-12th graders proceed to the Lounge at 10am.

PRELUDE

Pastorale
David Shack (1978)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christine Weitzel

Leader: God created us and breathed life into us.

People: For our very lives, we stand indebted to God.

Leader: God gave us dominion over life on this teeming planet.

People: For this privilege, we stand indebted to God.

Leader: God offers us the Bible so we might grow in faith

People: For the wisdom of the ages, we are indebted to God.

Leader: God calls us into community to learn how to share.

People: For the joy of companions, we remain indebted to God.

Let us open our hearts to God and to one another as we enter worship this day.

***OPENING HYMN #4**

Joyful Joyful, We Adore You

OPENING PRAYER

Christine Weitzel

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Oh Lord, We know that every gift we have ever been given comes from your generous hand.

Forgive us for feeling smug about our success.

Forgive us for forgetting how much we owe to luck or grace.

Forgive us for telling ourselves we have earned this bounty.

In spired by your example, help us to live with open hands and

open minds, that we might be true stewards of your abundance.

With grateful hearts, we pray...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response

ANTHEM

Pie Jesu from Requiem
Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Beth Sterling, soprano

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:26-31 p. 1

SERMON

Is There Ever Enough: What Does the Bible Say?
Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) # 562

Take My Gifts

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

Panis Angelicus
Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

**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 & Cup:

O Come, Everyone that Thirsteth from Elijah
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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 # 565**

**God, Whose Giving
Knows No Ending**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION The Lord Bless You and Keep You
Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931)

POSTLUDE

In dir ist Freude
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Thank you to our Chancel Choir section leaders for this morning's music:

Beth Sterling, soprano
Maggie Furtak, alto
Nate Ramsayer, tenor
Crosby Goshgarian, bass

****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: Christine Weitzel

Deacons: Craig Morrison, Stephanie Oddleifson,

Communion: Sunu Yeh, Frank Luppino, Robert Kennedy

Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel,

Robert Kennedy

Altar Guild: Diana Conroy, Lee McNally

Flowers: Gail Browne

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our loved ones by Jay Walters, Sue Findlay and family.

If you were unable to attend the Fauré Requiem concert last evening in our church, please come and hear the second performance at the Canton United Church of Christ, 1541 Washington Street, Canton MA 02021 today at 3PM. Tickets will be available at the door.

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.

The Congregational Church of Needham

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The Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
The Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guatemala Yard Sale, Sat. May 17, 9am - 2 pm. at Caryl and Dave Johnson's (505 Great Plain Ave.): Save the Date and your Donations! **Items Wanted:** Household goods, children's toys/games/equipment, sports equipment, bicycles, electronics, art, collectibles, jewelry, books/DVD's, tools, small furniture, lawn furniture, etc. (no clothing, TV's or computers/monitors). **Drop-Offs begin 5:00 pm, Sunday, May 11 at Johnson's garage.** If site is unattended, lift left-side garage door and put donations inside. For questions contact Brenda Metzler: bmetzler7@verizon.net.

Guatemala Partner-Family Letters: Many of the partner-family letters brought back by the February delegation to Guatemala have been translated and are ready for pick-up. So please stop by the **Guatemala table at Coffee Hour today** to check for yours. Each envelope also contains news from the village, plus if the delegation shared a meal with your family, there will be a short write-up of the visit.

Outreach Hunger Relief Food-Pantry Drive: Over the course of May, this year's Confirmation Class, with the support of the Outreach Committee, will be leading a Food Pantry Drive ending on Youth Sunday, June 1st. Our efforts can help to ease Food Insecurity faced by many neighbors in Needham and surrounding communities. Ask a friendly Confirmand for suggested food and pantry donation ideas. If possible, consider fresh vegetables, cooking oils, canned goods, even items like toothpaste etc. Even small contributions go a long way! Collection boxes will be placed in the main hallway and by the sanctuary entrance. Thank you!

Men's Breakfast, Sunday May 18: "**Stewardship away from the eyes of others**". The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together once a month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. We get together in the Library on the third Sunday of the month and enjoy breakfast fare provided by volunteers. We have always welcomed men of all ages and can always accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion. On May 18, we will address the May worship theme of "Stewardship" by discussing the importance of stewardship when no one is looking. Contact Keith McClelland (kmm1km@rcn.com) for more information.

Bible Study - Sunday Group- Join us in the Reception Room at 11:30am. Newcomers are welcome! Contact Sunu Yeh for more information- dormouse99@gmail.com.

Thursday 10:30am Group- Contact Christine Weitzel for information
cweitzel@verizon.net

CALENDAR for May 4 – May 18

Sunday, May 4th	9:15 am Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 10:00 am Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30 am Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> 12:00 pm Shepherd’s Staff Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 3:00 pm Fauré Requiem at Canton United Church of Christ 7:00 pm Guatemala Partnership Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Monday, May 5th	9:00 am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> 6:00 pm Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Tuesday, May 6th	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Knitters, <i>Conference Room</i> 6:00 pm Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> 7:00 pm EMT Meeting, <i>Chapel</i> Deacon’s Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Wednesday, May 7th	7:00 pm Youth Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 8th	7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Fri. & Sat., May 9th & 10th	Women’s Retreat, Craigville Conference Center
Sunday, May 11th Bible Sunday	9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 9:15 am Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 10:00 am Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30 am Hallelujah Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Monday, May 12th	9:00 am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> 6:00 pm Confirmation Class, <i>Linden Hall</i> 7:30 pm Immigration Task Force, <i>Library</i>
Wednesday, May 14th	11:30 am Friendly Annual Meeting/Strawberry Festival, <i>Linden Hall</i> 7:00 pm Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
Thursday, May 15th	7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
Saturday, May 17th	9:00 am Guatemala Yard Sale, <i>505 Great Plain Ave.</i>
Sunday, May 18th Confirmation	8:15 am Men’s Breakfast, <i>Library</i> 10:00 am Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30 am Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i>