



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

June 8, 2014

Theme: Great Stories from the Bible



## **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, June 8, 2014

10:00am

*Childcare for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is available in the preschool room downstairs during the service. Grades K-5 start in the sanctuary at 10am, then leave for June Program in Chapel and workshops. Grades K-1 proceed to Story, Grades 2-3 proceed to Art, and Grades 4-5 proceed to Cooking. Grades 6-12 stay in worship with families.*

PRELUDE

Berceuse  
*Gabriel Fauré ( 1845-1924)*  
Bruce Goody, flute  
Jonathan Moretz, guitar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Mollerus

Leader: We come like Abraham and Sarah, people with a vision.

**People: We come like Job and Thomas, people with questions.**

Leader: We come like Mary and Peter, people with self doubts.

**People: We come like Deborah and Joshua, people with courage.**

Leader: We come like Zacchaeus and David, people with regrets.

**People: We come like Moses and Jesus, people impatient with injustice.**

Leader: We come to the Bible, where there is always a story for us.

**People: We come together to worship and to hear the stories of our faith.**

**OPENING HYMN #276(NCH) Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Tom Mollerus

*Call to Prayer*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us pray.

*Unison Prayer*

**Holy God, we thank you for the Bible.**

**We thank you for Adam and Eve who discovered how much they needed one another.**

**We thank you for Abraham and Sarah who heard your call to walk in faith and trusted that you would tell them how to go.**

**We thank you for Moses who stood up to Pharaoh even when he was afraid.**

**We thank you for Jesus who showed us how much God loves us.**

**We thank you for Paul who fought for his faith and never stopped trying.**

**We thank you for Mary who discovered that Jesus was alive.**

**We thank you for everyone who listened to God's voice.**

**As we hear the Bible's stories, help us to find a message for our lives today. Inspire us as we pray...**

*Silent Prayer*

*Lord's Prayer*

*Prayer Response*

**ANTHEM**

Still, Still with Thee

*text by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1812-1896)*

*music by Fred Gramann (b.1950)*

Maggie Furtak, alto solo

Bruce Goody, flute

Still, still with Thee, when purple morning breaketh, when the  
bird waketh and the shadows flee;  
Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight, dawns the sweet  
consciousness; I am with Thee.  
Alone with Thee, amid the mystic shadows, the solemn hush of  
nature newly born;  
Alone with Thee in breathless adoration, in the calm dew and  
freshness of the morn.  
Still, still with Thee, as to each newborn morning, afresh and  
solemn splendor still is given,  
So does this blessed consciousness, awaking, breathe each new  
day nearness unto Thee and heaven.  
So shall it be at last in that bright morning, when the soul  
waketh and life's shadows flee;  
O in that hour, fairer than daylight dawning, shall rise the  
glorious thought, I am with Thee.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

### SERMON

Abraham Hears God Speak  
Based on summary of Genesis 11-22  
Susan Cartmell

### HYMN (seated) #321(NCH)

**Break Now the Bread of Life**

### 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.**

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*

Ave Verum Corpus  
*Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

**\*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*

*Distribution of the Bread and Cup*

*Hymns for the Bread and Cup:*

Music: The Little Shepherd  
*Claude Debussy (1862-1918)*  
Bruce Goody, flute  
Jonathan Moretz, guitar

Hymns: #332 (NCH) As We Gather at Your Table  
# 346(NCH) Bread of the World

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**\*CLOSING HYMN #315(NCH)**

**O Word of God Incarnate**

**BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Sweet Savior, Bless Us Ere We Go

*Hymn No. 542 (PH)*

**POSTLUDE**

Voluntary in D

*John Stanley (1712-1786)*

***\*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](http://www.needhamucc.org), our church website.

*Worship Leader:* Tom Mollerus

*Deacons:* Peter Atallah, Connie Kaufman, Sunu Yeh, Fred Moder,  
Mary Lou Hughes, Fabienne Madsen

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

*Altar Guild:* Carol Miller, Lee McNally

*Flowers:* Beverly Bolivar

*Flower delivery:* Martha Lamb

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our fathers: Charlie Card , William Weitzel, and step-father Charles Waggener. We love you and miss you. The Weitzel 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.

# Join Alpha<sup>o</sup> this fall

## *What is Alpha:*

A program led by Rev. Susan and Rev. Jamie.

## *Who is invited:*

Anyone who started to attend the church in the last two years.

## *When:*

Fall 2014

## *What Happens:*

- We share a meal – adults and children together.
- After we eat Susan leads the adult discussion.
- Jamie leads a lesson for the children on the same topic. Her program is called Alpha Junior.



## *What topics?*

- Who is Jesus?
- Can faith help me?
- Why read the Bible?
- Are there miracles?
- How do we learn to pray?
- What about sin?
- What is the purpose of a faith community?

Each week Susan and Jamie will give a short lesson and provide time for discussion (for adults) and activities (for kids).



Previous Alpha participants have said it was one of the best programs they ever found for their families.

One said...

*"When we joined Alpha, we were new to Needham and to the church. Alpha was a great way to meet people and get to know them on more than a superficial basis. We made lasting friendships."*

To sign up or for more information, contact Susan at [revsusan@needhamucc.org](mailto:revsusan@needhamucc.org) or Jamie at [revjamie@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjamie@needhamucc.org). Go on to the doodle site (address below) to let us know what times are best for you.

If you are interested in joining Alpha, please take our doodle poll (<http://doodle.com/cdakurxp3a8ndmru>) to help us choose a day and time that will work best for everyone. Please visit [www.needhamucc.org/alpha](http://www.needhamucc.org/alpha).

Join us for food and  
food for thought.





**BACK FOR THE SUMMER!**  
**AUGUST 25-28<sup>th</sup>**

*Kids ages 3 to 11 are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun at The Congregational Church of Needham's VBS program.*

**THEME: "StudioGo!"**

Fee: \$25 per day for morning activities (8:30-12)  
Lunch Bunch offered from 12-1pm for \$5 per day

Additional children in each family will receive 50% discount  
AND save \$20 if you register by August 1<sup>st</sup>!

**Download a registration form at**  
**[www.needhamucc.org/learn/vbs](http://www.needhamucc.org/learn/vbs)**

Or register ONLINE at [www.needhamucc.org/vbs](http://www.needhamucc.org/vbs)

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The Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister    Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries  
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister    Valerie Becker, Director of Youth Music  
The Rev. Jamie Klopotoski, Youth Minister    The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

## *CALENDAR for June 8—June 19*

<b>Sunday June 8th</b>	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Village Celebration, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Study, <i>Reception Room</i>
<b>Monday June 9th</b>	9:00 am 7:30 pm	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i> Immigration Task Force, <i>Library</i>
<b>Tuesday June 10th</b>	7:00 pm	EMT Meeting, <i>Chapel</i>
<b>Wednesday June 11th</b>	7:00 pm	Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>
<b>Thursday, June 12th</b>	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>
<b>Sunday June 15th</b>	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Friendly Chime Ringers Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Exploring Thomas Berry, <i>Linden Hall</i> Bible Study, <i>Reception Room</i>
<b>Monday June 16th</b>	9:00 am	Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i>
<b>Wednesday June 18th</b>	7:30 pm	Music Team Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
<b>Thursday June 19th</b>	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>

## Announcements

**Exploring The Life and Work of Thomas Berry:** June 15 at 11:30am, Linden Hall. Join us watching an amazing documentary about the great eco-theologian Thomas Berry. Berry has been a pioneer in the field of spirituality and ecology, and has created a quiet revolution. He is a monk, a cultural historian, an author, a teacher, and a mystic. Lunch will be available for the event.

**Trip to Germany - June 2015:** Plans for our trip to Germany are on their way. If you or a member of your family (extended family) might be interested in traveling with us, please let them know. Prices and dates depend on the number of people wanting to go. Travel dates are: June 19 to June 30, 2015. To get better airline prices, bookings should be considered in late August/September of 2014. Please speak to Rev. Heike if you have any questions.

**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](mailto:dormouse99@gmail.com)

**Thursday 10:30am Group–** Contact Christine Weitzel for information [cweitzel@verizon.net](mailto:cweitzel@verizon.net).

**August Vacation Bible School!** Kids ages 3-10 are invited to the “StudioGo!” on August 25-28, 8:30am-noon, to create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, sing, and enjoy snacks. Registration forms are available on the website at [www.needhamucc.org/vbs](http://www.needhamucc.org/vbs)

**Registration for the 2014/2015 school year at The Center is now open:** The Center is an after school drop-in program for 6<sup>th</sup> (and returning 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>) graders. For more info, visit [www.myyouthcenter.org](http://www.myyouthcenter.org) or contact Jamie at 781-444-2510 ext. 198 or [info@myyouthcenter.org](mailto:info@myyouthcenter.org).

**A Message from the Church Evaluation Team:** Thank you for your participation in the recent whole church review. We received an impressive 87 survey responses with many comments. We are in the process of tallying and reviewing the results. You are invited to attend a meeting on June 22 at 11:30 a.m. to receive our initial report on the results of the survey as to the questions regarding the church's effectiveness. We hope this report will launch a prayerful conversation on how we can, as a community, improve in our ministries together. (As noted on the survey, the responses regarding the effectiveness of the individual ministers are considered personnel matters; they will not be reported on at this meeting.) We hope to see you there - Carol Oberle, Frank Luppino and Fabienne Madsen, Deacons ; Mike Yeh and Jackie Allen, Board members.