



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

July 24, 2016

Theme: Stories about the Stories of 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, July 24, 2016

10:00am

Childcare for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is available in the preschool room downstairs during the service.

WELCOMING MUSIC

Prelude in F major, BWV 880
by Sebastian Bach

WORDS OF GREETING

Madelyn Downer, M.Div

***OPENING HYMN #475(NCH)**

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow
See Insert (2 pages)

PRAYER

One: We come together to worship God,

All: The creator, the one who finds order in the midst of chaos.

One: We come together to know Jesus,

All: The savior, the one who offers life in the midst of death.

One: We come together to feel the Spirit,

All: Who brings light in the midst of darkness. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

LIGHTING CANDLES FOR JOYS & CONCERNS

MUSIC

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:2, as told by Marc Gellman

SERMON

“Watching the Burning Bush Burn”
Madelyn Downer, M.Div

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

MUSIC

Impromptu Op. 90 No. 3
Schubert

**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 #476(NCH)**

My Life Flows on in Endless Song
See Insert (2 pages)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Weil Die Wollenreicheb Herden
by Sebastian Bach

* *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.

Deacons: Sunu Yeh, Rick Devereux
Altar Guild: Jane Clayton Matthews
Ushers: Rob Blauvelt, Craig Morrison
Flowers: Doris Cook
Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Emily Howard Drescher by Doris Drescher Cook.

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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

Altar Flower Donation

A donation is needed for Sunday, July 31. If you would like to make a donation in honor of, or in memory of, a friend or relative, please call Doris Cook (781) 444-5591 or send an email to doriscook2@aol.com or call the church office (781) 444-2510.

LAST CALL for Partner-Family Letters

The August delegation departs August 3rd for Santa María Tzejá, so please send letters ASAP to Dave Johnson: davebjohnson77@gmail.com

Guatemala Delegation Send-Off

Please join us in sending off our August delegation to Guatemala on Tuesday, August 2nd, 7:00-8:00 pm, at Dave and Caryl Johnson's (505 Great Plain Ave.).

Summer Music

If you are interested in contributing to our musical offering this summer please see Valerie Becker. These services are low key and it is a lovely way to share your gifts with everyone!

Village Fair—Rustic Chic

It's time to start thinking about the Village Fair! In preparation for a new table at the fair, Rustic Chic, items are needed. Contact Isabell Wells at 781-449-8907 or allnorder2@yahoo.com if you have any of the listed items below you can donate.

Items with a 50's flair; Barware—vintage 50's and 60's, mirrors (painted or wood); Succulents; Items to plant with small plants or succulents; Funky candle holders; Votifs; Seashells; Candles; Wine Corks; Beads to make jewelry; Old Maps; Beer Caps

Prepare for the Fair!!

GARDEN FENCE team creates Fall and Christmas silk flower arrangements, whimsical table decorations, and elegant and casual wreaths for our church fair. Donations that are in good shape are always welcome! We are looking for: small Christmas ornaments, Christmas-theme or fall decorative containers, candles and candle holders, Pine cones (no white please), Artificial non-plastic holiday greens, trees, wreaths, stems and sprays, grapevine wreaths, Figures (snowmen, Santa, birds, etc.), Christmas and fall silk flower stems and sprays, Winter berry stems, Garlands, Shells, and Artificial fruit - especially medium to small apples.

Questions about your donations, contact: Betty Peterson (781-444-1996) or Joanne Seiden (781-449-6535; jseiden@basiclink.com).

Village Fair Sweet Shop

The Sweet Shop table is in need of donations of a variety of candy and fudge for the Village Fair. Also looking for volunteers to help with set up. Contact Carol Miller at millerc291@verizon.net for more information.

Note From The Ushers

Would you like to contribute to the life of our church, but are worried you might not have time? Consider ushering! Ushers serve one Sunday per month, and need to be in the sanctuary from about 20 minutes before and 20 minutes after service. Interested? Please speak with Eric Slosser or email him at eric@slosser.net

FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT WEEKS and TRAINING OPPORTUNITY-Fisk, Natick July 17-24 and First Congregational Natick (FCC) August 14-21

If volunteering with Family Promise is something you and the youth in your family have been wanting to do but find the school year too busy we will be hosting a **Training** at the church **Tuesday, August 2nd 7-8:30PM**. Please contact Susan Kirk susanckirk@comcast.net for more information and to learn more about this meaningful summer volunteer opportunity.

AUGUST VBS

Animal Academy

August 22 - 26

8:30 AM - Noon

Kids ages 3-10 are invited to come and learn about the furry, feathery, and creepy-crawly members of God's family! Come sing songs, play games, learn about animals in our science workshops, do arts and craft projects, and participate in animal activities! A traveling petting zoo will come to visit. An animal shelter will show us the ways we can help homeless animals. And we'll have lots of fun learning to love all of Creation the way that God loves us! *Please note, children will be in supervised contact with farm animals and puppies.*

\$30 per day per student for first child, \$20 per day for each child after. Please note, students must be potty-trained. Sign at <http://needhamucc.org/VBS>. Registration ends August 1st.

Lunch Bunch: Noon - 1 PM, \$5 per student Our snacks and lunches are entirely peanut and tree-nut free. Typical lunches: chicken nuggets, sandwiches, pizza.

Scholarships are available! Please reach out to us at youth@needhamucc.org if you are interested in a scholarship application.



CALENDAR July 24th– August 28th

Sunday, July 24th	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Sunday, July 31st	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Tuesday, Aug. 2nd	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i> Guatemala Delegation Send-Off, <i>505 Great Plain Ave. (Johnson Home)</i>
Sunday, Aug. 7th	10:00am	Worship Service-Communion, <i>Chapel</i>
Sunday, Aug. 14th	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Sunday, Aug. 21st	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Monday, Aug. 22nd	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, Aug. 23rd	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Wed., Aug. 24th	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Thursday, Aug. 25th	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Friday, Aug. 26th	8:30 am	Vacation Bible School
Sunday, Aug. 28th Blessing of the Backpacks	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7

Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.

Stanzas, in unison

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and
 And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and
 When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por-tion? My
 fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but
 dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.

Tune: SPARROW Irr.
Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing, What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

In various nineteenth-century hymnals this hymn was attributed to different poets, including Anna Warner. The earliest published source credits Robert Lowry as the composer, although Silas Vail later claimed the music. The third stanza was written by Doris Plenn in the 1950s when her friends were imprisoned during the McCarthy era.

Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels
for the Sunday School, New York, 1869



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing-ing?
Love com-mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing-ing?
things are mine since I am Christ's—how can I keep from sing-ing?

