



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

July 31, 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 31, 2016

10:00am

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

WELCOMING MUSIC

WORDS OF GREETING

Madelyn Downer, M.Div

***OPENING HYMN #597(NCH)**

Shall We Gather At The River
See Insert

PRAYER

One: Holy One, we come into this space seeking sanctuary,

All: To nourish body and soul for you, O God, are life-giving.

One: Holy One, we come into this space seeking connection,

All: Connection with you, with each other, and even with our selves.

One: We gather together, each of us in a different place on our journey, to worship the God who made us one in Christ.

All: God, would you meet us where we are? Help us to know you here and now. Meet us in this silence as we bring you the prayers dwelling in our hearts.

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

- 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: Joanne Seiden, Lee McNally

Altar Guild: Jean Veigas

Ushers: Todd Barth, Dave Johnson, Jan Rubenstein

Flowers: Doris Cook

Flower Delivery: Joanne Seiden

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of a splendid American--MCPO “Pete” Petersen Ret. USN, a shipmate.

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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

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.).

August Vacation Bible School 8:30am-Noon August 22-26

Kids ages 3-10 are invited to come and learn about the furry, feathery, and creepy-crawly members of God's family. \$30 per day per student for first child, \$20 per day for each child after. Please note, students must be potty-trained. Lunch Bunch option: Noon-1pm, \$5 per student. Our snacks and lunches are entirely peanut and tree-nut free. Sign up at church or at <http://needhamucc.org/VBS>

Altar Flower Donations: 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 August. Anyone interested may contact Debbie Wentworth at bmwfac@comcast.net. Additionally, an altar flower donation form can be found in the circular rack in the Narthex. You may complete the form and put it in the manila envelope. The Flower Team looks forward to acting on your behalf

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.

CALENDAR July 31st– August 28th

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, 505 Great Plain Ave. (<i>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>

**REGISTER
BY
AUG. 1ST!**



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! *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.

Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

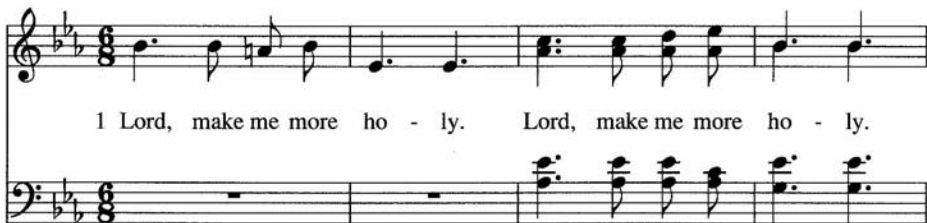
Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Robert Lowry, 1864

Lord, Make Me More Holy

75

African-American spiritual


1 Lord, make me more ho - ly. Lord, make me more ho - ly.



Lord, make me more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly un - til we meet a - gain.

- 2 Lord, make me more faith-ful, . . . Faith-ful, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.
- 3 Lord, make me more hum-ble, . . . Hum-ble, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.
- 4 Lord, make me more righ-teous, . . . Righ-teous, . . . un-til we meet a-gain.

The origins of this African-American spiritual have been traced to the area of Charleston, South Carolina, where it may have been sung as a closing hymn for worship. It is one of a number of devotional songs expressing the desire to attain the spiritual character of Jesus.

Tune: LORD, MAKE ME MORE HOLY

6.6.6.6.6.6.

African-American spiritual