



# CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

United Church of Christ

August 14, 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, August 14, 2016

10:00am

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

**WELCOMING MUSIC**

Adagio in G  
Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Cellist - Eric Slosser

**WORDS OF GREETING**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**  
*(See Insert)*

**PRAYER**

**written by Rev. Mindi**  
(taken from <http://rev-o-lution.org>)

Architect of the Universe,  
Your voice called out over the deep and darkness and brought forth light.  
Your voice called out over the waters and brought forth life.  
Your voice called out over this earth and brought forth our very beings.  
Your voice continues to call out in our Universe and bring new hope and new life.

Help us to hear Your voice above the hum of the highway and the buzz of the business talk.

Help us to hear Your voice in the cries of children, in the soft tones of the sick, in the pleas of the poor.

May we hear, listen, and respond to Your voice in our lives and in our world.

Hear us as we pray ...

*Silent Prayer*

*Lord's Prayer (Debts, Debtors)*

## **LIGHTING CANDLES FOR JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **MUSIC**

#### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Genesis 11: 1-9

#### **SERMON**

“Does God Have a big Toe?”  
Heike Werder

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **OFFERING OF TITHES and GIFTS**

#### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

Romance  
*anon*

#### ***\*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**

**We Turn to You, O God of Every Nation**  
*(See Insert)*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Andante sostenuto in E flat  
*Ralph Vaughan Williams*  
Cellist - Eric Slosser

*\*You are invited to stand*

*Special thanks to Eric Slosser, guest cellist, for sharing his gift  
of music with us this morning.*

- Welcome to all who are here for the first time.
- Please turn off your cell phone before attending the service.
- Please ask an usher if you would like or need a hearing device.

*Deacons:* Joanne Seiden, Lee McNally

*Altar Guild:* Laura Cullen

*Ushers:* Alex Cullen, David Libby, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser

*Flowers:* Debbie Wentworth

*Flower Delivery:* Jean Veigas

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Emily Campbell by Debbie Wentworth and family.*

## Worship Schedule Through September 11, 2016

### **August 21 Two Freedom Marches, B.C.E. and 1963**

Rev. Jim preaching based on Exodus 14 and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech.

### **August 28 Blessing of the Backpacks**

Young people returning to school are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing. Rev. Jim will preach from Exodus 34 on "Remembering Emmett Till and why his Black Life still Matters" .

### **September 4 - Labor Day Sunday- "All Work is Sacred"**

Rev. Jim preaches on Luke 13:10-17.

### **Worship resumes in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 11**

Welcome Back! Sunday – plan now to invite family and friends for this festive Homecoming Celebration.

#### **Staff**

Interim Senior Minister

The Rev. Jim Mitulski

RevJim@needhamucc.org

781-444-2510, ext. 106

Associate Minister

The Rev. Heike Werder

RevHeike@needhamucc.org

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Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Madelyn Downer

Youth@needhamucc.org

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Music Director

Valerie Becker

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Organist/Accompanist

Sangyoung Kim

Church Administrator

Danielle Jurdan

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781-444-2510, ext. 101

Office Assistant

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Bookkeeper

Suzanne Leslie

Finance@needhamucc.org

781-444-2510, ext. 113

Handyman

Bill Donovan

Housekeeper

Sanira Alchaar

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Facebook: Congregational Church of Needham UCC

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*The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Altar Flower Donations**

An opportunity awaits to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion in the month of September. Anyone interested may contact the church office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) or 781-444-2510. Additionally, an altar donation form can be found in the circular rack in the Narthex. Complete the form and place it in the manila envelope. The Flower Committee looks forward to acting on your behalf.

### **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>

### **Labor Day Weekend Rafting!**

Rev. Heike and Maddie are leading a trip for our High School Aged youth for a weekend of camping and rafting down the Kennebec River in Maine! Interested? Email Maddie at [youth@needhamucc.org](mailto:youth@needhamucc.org).

### **Ride for Food - September 25th**

Do you like riding your bike? Can you envision riding your bike for a good cause? Our Outreach committee is hoping to gather and sponsor a team that will participate in the "Ride For Food", an event that benefits 18 food pantries, including our own here in Needham. Take a look at [www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org) and scroll down to the 'Bike rider.' Click on the icon for more information. The outreach committee is hoping to help with registration fees and collective fundraising for the event. Bike riders of all levels are invited to participate. Please email the office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) if you are interested!

### **Guatemala Partnership Welcome Back Brunch on September 11th**

We would like to re-start the tradition in which Guatemala partner families host a welcome back brunch for the congregation, this year on September 11th following the service. If you are able to help, please see Val Kistler or Brenda Metzler after church to sign up to bring baked goods or other brunch items or to help with set-up or clean up. Or you can email Val Kistler at [valk228@gmail.com](mailto:valk228@gmail.com). Let's make this a very special welcome back for the congregation, as we return from summer activities!

### **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!

**FAMILY PROMISE SUPPORT WEEKS and TRAINING OPPORTUNITY- First Congregational Natick (FCC) August 14-21.** Please contact Susan Kirk [susanckirk@comcast.net](mailto:susanckirk@comcast.net) for more information and to learn more about this meaningful summer volunteer opportunity.

## CALENDAR August 14th– September 11th

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 <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Sunday, Sept. 4th	10:00am	Worship Service, <i>Chapel</i>
Monday, Sept. 5th <b>Labor Day</b>		Office Closed
Tuesday, Sept. 6th	10:00am 6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Meeting, <i>1180 GPA</i> Community Dinner, <i>Linden Hall</i>
Thurs., Sept. 8th	12:00pm 7:30 pm	Lunch with Heike, <i>1180 GPA</i> Choir Practice, <i>Linden AB</i>
Sunday, Sept, 11th <b>Welcome Back Sunday</b>	10:00am 11:00pm 4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i> Bible Village Orientation & Registration Junior High Youth Group Orientation Senior High Youth Group Orientation



## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

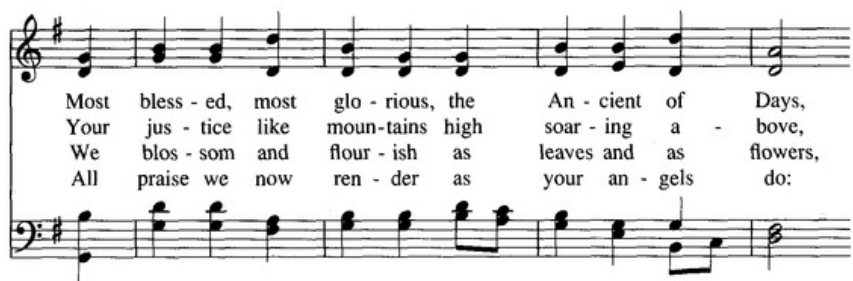
1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



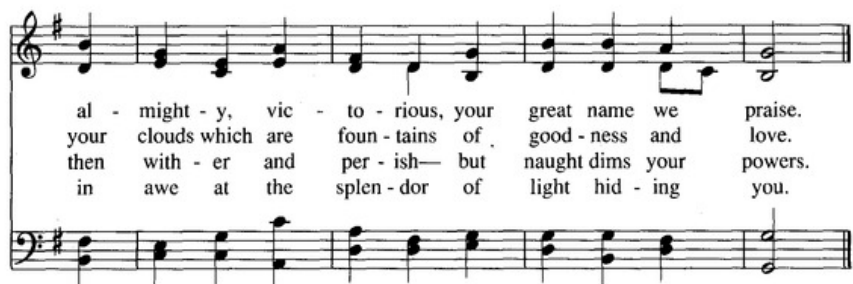
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.  
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

**We turn to you, O God of every nation**  
**(tune # 413 [NCH] By Gracious Powers)**

**1 We turn to you, O God of every nation,  
giver of good and origin of life;  
your love is at the heart of all creation,  
your hurt is people's pain in war and death.**

**2 We turn to you that we may be forgiven  
for crucifying Christ on earth again.  
We know that we have never wholly striven  
to share with all the promise of your reign.**

**3 Free every heart from haughty self-reliance,  
our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;  
break down among us barriers of defiance,  
speak to the soul of all the human race.**

**4 On all who rise on earth for right relations,  
we pray the light of love from hour to hour.  
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,  
the gift of carefulness to those in power.**

**5 Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others,  
help us to give and not to count the cost.  
Unite us all to live as sisters, brothers,  
defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!**

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

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11 10 11 10 Tune: Bonheoffer (# 413 NCH By Gracious Powers)