



September 1, 2013

Labor Day Sunday



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, September 1, 2013

10:00am

*Childcare for infants & toddlers is available downstairs in the nursery.
Older children are welcome to attend the worship service.*

PRELUDE Prelude and Fugue ~Bach *Soomi Lee Lowry*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.

People: With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity – with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.

Leader: And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.

People: O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.

Leader: Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.

People: Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice. Teach us to be co-creators with You of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us.

***OPENING HYMN # 38 (black hymnal) “Lift Up Your Hearts”**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Loving and generous God, you are the font of every blessing, the source of all we have. Your breath gives us life, your love gives us courage and strength, healing and compassion. You care for us like a loving parent and feed our spirits, our minds, and our bodies. We thank you for your abundance given freely to all.

But God, forgive us for wanting more, even when we have more than we need. Create in us new hearts to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. Help us to know that our abundance is for others' needs. Great Teacher, write your law on our hearts: God's abundance is enough for all if we share. Hear our prayers ...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

MUSIC Sonata, No.14, Mvt. I ~Beethoven *Soomi Lee Lowry*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR LABOR DAY

HYMN # 89 (Black) "Awake, Awake to Love and Work"
Please remain seated!

REFLECTION ON LABOR DAY: SEEKING GOD'S SHALOM
by Bruce Epperly

HYMN # 588 (Black) "Let Justice Flow like Streams"
Please remain seated!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Concerns and Celebrations

Congregational Response #283 (Black) "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

Music Nocturn in C#minor ~Chopin *Soomi Lee Lowry*

**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 # 562 (Black)** **“Take My Gifts”**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sonata, No.9, Mvt. III ~Beethoven *Soomi Lee Lowry*

****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 Leaders: Fred Moder and Diana Conroy

Deacons: Fabienne Madsen and Mary Lou Hughes

Ushers: Jim Leighton, Phil Gotwals, Rich Weitzel, Robert Kennedy

Altar Guild: Carol Miller and Val Kistler

Flowers: Christine Arren

Flower Delivery: Frida Boyd

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God by Francis and Christine Arren.

The Congregational Church of Needham

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The Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister

The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister

The Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries

Jannatha Coffin-Malia, Dir of Youth Music

The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS! The following Sundays are still available for altar flower donations for September: 15th, 22nd, and 29th. If you would like to donate altar flowers, you can either call Chris Arren directly at 781-449-4228 or call the church office.

Thursday Lunch with Rev. Heike begins September 5th !

Food builds community. We all have to eat, but we don't have to eat alone. Everyone is cordially invited to have a simple lunch at the church on the first Thursday of every month and weekly during the time of Advent and Lent. Soups are vegetarian based (most of them) but always lactose and nut free. The 2013 dates are: September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5, December 12, and December 19, 2013.

Men's Breakfast, Sunday September 15. 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.

The Village Fair! It's not too early! We are accepting applications from Artists that wish to show and sell their work at the Village Fair on November 16, 2013. Applications are available online at <http://needhamucc.org/come/villagefair/> or email office@needhamucc.org.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the Fair please contact Danielle Jurdan in the office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510.

August Delegation Report-Back, Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 am (Linden Hall)—The August delegation was large in numbers of people and they were inspired by the spirit of the people of Santa Maria Tzeja. Come hear what the travelers have to say about their experiences, learn what they did, and see if they visited your partner family. Join us for refreshments and photographs in Linden Hall on Sunday, September 22 immediately after Coffee Hour.

SAVE THE DATE: Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)! Limited Engagement! *Sunday, October 20th and Monday October 21st at 7pm.* See a light-hearted adaptation of all the bard's classics in a two-act tour-de-farce, starring Joshua Scharback and two of his professional actor colleagues. Ticket prices are \$40 per person/\$25 per student. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and newly acquired Guatemalan crafts and donated items that will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the Guatemala Partnership of the Congregational Church of Needham. All proceeds will benefit education and community development in our partner village, Santa Maria Tzeja.

CALENDAR for September 1st – 14th

Sunday September 1st	10am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i>
Monday September 2nd	LABOR DAY
Tuesday September 3rd	6pm Community Dinner 7pm Environmental Ministry Team Meeting 7pm Deacons Meeting
Thursday September 5th	12pm Lunch with Rev. Heike, <i>Library</i>
Sunday September 8th	8:15am Men's Group Breakfast & Discussion, <i>Library</i> 10am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 10am Bible Village begins today! 5pm Junior High Youth Group, <i>Stevenson Hall</i> 5:30pm Potluck for College Freshman Parents, <i>Library</i> 7pm Senior High Youth Group, <i>Stevenson Hall</i>
Tuesday September 10th	7pm CE Committee Meeting, <i>Conference Room</i>
Wednesday September 11th	7pm Board Meeting, <i>Library</i>