

Welcome to all who are new or here for the first time! If you are interested in learning more about our church, please email Rev. Jim at [revjim@needhamucc.org](mailto:revjim@needhamucc.org), Rev Heike at [revheike@needhamucc.org](mailto:revheike@needhamucc.org) or call the office at 781-444-2510 to set up a conversation.

For updates on church life, our family ministries, Christian Education and Youth Ministries follow us at: **@NeedhamUCC on Instagram**

**Congregational Church of Needham UCC on Facebook**

**@needhamucc on Twitter [www.needhamucc.org](http://www.needhamucc.org)**

Please silence your cell phone before attending the service. You can Check In on Facebook and let people know you are here. Feel free to Tweet or Instagram during the service. If you would like or need a hearing device an usher will be able to assist you. Children's Childcare is offered for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers in the Nursery located downstairs during the service.

**Rev. Jim Mitulski's Office Hours**

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment during his office hours of Tuesday & Wednesday 2-6pm; Thursday 2-5pm Evening hours are also available by appointment.

\*If these times do not work for you please contact the office for alternate availability.

**Staff**

Interim Senior Minister—The Rev. Jim Mitulski <a href="mailto:RevJim@needhamucc.org">RevJim@needhamucc.org</a> 781-444-2510, ext. 106	Church Administrator—Danielle Jurdan <a href="mailto:Office@needhamucc.org">Office@needhamucc.org</a> 781-444-2510, ext. 101
Associate Minister—The Rev. Heike Werder <a href="mailto:RevHeike@needhamucc.org">RevHeike@needhamucc.org</a> 781-444-2510, ext. 105	Office Assistant & Bookkeeper—Cindy Sullivan <a href="mailto:Office2@needhamucc.org">Office2@needhamucc.org</a> 781-444-2510, ext. 100
Director of Children & Youth Ministries—Madelyn Downer <a href="mailto:Youth@needhamucc.org">Youth@needhamucc.org</a> 781-444-2510, ext. 104	Music Director—Valerie Becker <a href="mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org">musicdirector@needhamucc.org</a>
Organist/Accompanist—Sangyoung Kim	Handyman—Bill Donovan
Housekeeper—Sanira Alchaar	

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



# The Congregational Church of Needham

*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ*

**September 10, 2017 10:00am**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Service of Holy Communion**

**Welcome Back Sunday**

*Welcome to our worship service.*

*Please join us for refreshments and time for fellowship immediately following the service.*

**PRELUDE**

Choral

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)*

**WELCOME SONG**

**All Are Welcome**

*Selected Verses (see insert)*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Jim, Rev. Heike, Alan Clayton-Matthews

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING**

**Call to Worship**

Praise God!

**Sing to God a new song!**

Give thanks to our Maker.

**We rejoice in our sovereign God.**

Let us praise God with dancing and music.

**Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!**

**Invocation**

**As we gather here in your name, O Christ,  
you are already among us.  
Keep us open to your presence in us and around us  
that we may grow closer to you. Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #12 (Black, New Century)**

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Madelyn Downer, MDiv.

**ANTHEM**

How Lovely are the Messengers  
*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy(1809 - 1847)*

**SELECTION OF READINGS**

Epistle Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

‘If another member of the church “sins against you”, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you God, by my Parent in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

**HYMN**

**O God, We’ve Prayed in Wind and Rain  
Amazing Grace CM (“Amazing Grace”)**

*Communion Prayer*

Love Is Not Concerned by Alice Walker

love is not concerned  
with whom you pray  
or where you slept  
the night you ran away  
from home  
love is concerned  
that the beating of your heart  
should kill no one

**CLOSING HYMN #76 (Black, New Century)**

**Sent Forth by God’s Blessing**

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring  
*J.S. Bach(1685 - 1750) arr. Alexander  
Soomi Lee Lowry*

*Deacons:* Paul Brown, Lucy Slosser

*Communion Servers:* Carol Miller, Kirby Salerno, Jean Veigas

*Altar Guild:* Jane Clayton-Matthews

*Ushers:* David Libby, Alex Cullen, Nancy Lane, Scott Lively

*Flowers:* Debbie Wentworth

*Flower Delivery:* Amy Kennedy

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara Fay and  
Robin MacMillan by Ken, Debbie (Fay), Erin and Tom Bassett.*

*Thank you to Soomi Lee Lowry for sharing her gift of music with us today.*

About the new Hymn"O God We've Prayed for Wind and Rain" from the UCC: **“O God, We’ve Prayed in Wind and Rain”** was written in response to severe storms -- Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana and even more devastating flooding in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh (1,200 deaths and 41 million people impacted in the Asian storms). We pray for those who are suffering, give thanks to the many who have responded, and pray for continuing efforts to help in comforting and rebuilding.

**O God, we've prayed in wind and rain and now we pray once more  
For those who felt the hurricane and heard the waters roar.**

**We pray for those who watched the storm destroy the life they knew,  
Who wait in shelters, tired and worn, and wonder what to do.**

**We thank you, God, for acts of love not bound by race or creed,  
For hands that reach across the flood to all who are in need.**

SERMON "Home" Rev. Jim Mitulski

HYMN **O God, We've Prayed in Wind and Rain  
Amazing Grace CM ("Amazing Grace")**

**We pray for others far away who've seen destruction, too;  
We look beyond ourselves, for they are also loved by you.**

**We pray that leaders of our land will heed creation's cry,  
And bravely care and take a stand for earth and sea and sky.**

**Where rains flood cities, homes and towns may we go out to be  
A witness that your love abounds in each community.**

### Community Prayers

*Celebrations and Concerns*

*Prayers for Our Friends and Families, Our Church, Our Community, and the World.*

*Lord's Prayer (please pray whatever form is familiar to you; many choose to pray Our Father, Our Mother, Our Father and Our Mother, Our Creator, or Our Maker, or Father/Mother God...debt / debtors or trespass/those who trespass...)*

### OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

*In each of our rows today is a black friendship book which we encourage you to fill out and pass to the person next to you during the offering. If you have been with us before, just put down your name, but if you are new today, please let us know who you are. Thanks!*

*Offertory Anthem*

Nocturne Op.9, no.2 in E flat Major  
F. Chopin (1810 - 1849)  
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*

### CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

*In the United Church of Christ, EVERYONE without exception is welcome to receive communion.*

*Invitation*

*Words of Institution*

*Prayer of Consecration*

*Sharing of the Bread and Cup*

*EVERYONE is welcome to receive the Bread and Cup. You don't need to be a member of this church or any church. Come forward at the direction of the usher. Pick up a piece of bread, gluten or non-gluten, and dip it in the cup. If you are not sure what to do, ask, and we are glad to explain. The cup contains grape juice. Children of any age may receive if their parents are comfortable, or you may bring them forward and we will give them a simple blessing. Everyone is welcome, without exception. If you would like communion brought to you, let the usher know and we are happy to bring it to you in your seat.*

*Communion Music*

*(You are welcome to sing these hymns during communion)*

Come to the table of grace, come to the table of grace,  
This is Christ's table. Not just yours or mine, come to the table of grace...  
Come to the table of peace....  
Come to the table of love...  
Come to the table of joy...

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.  
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.  
Love... Light... Christ... Alleluia... Peace....

## R219

## All Are Welcome

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we claim the  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the  
 stran - ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to  
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro - claim from

*Refrain*

end di - vi - sions:  
 faith of Je - sus:  
 feast that frees us: All are wel - come, all are wel - come,  
 fear and dan - ger:  
 floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come in this place.

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