



September 8, 2013
Called By God



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 8, 2013

10:00am

*Childcare for infants and toddlers is available downstairs.
Preschoolers and grades 9-12 meet for class downstairs at 10am.
Grades K-8 go directly to chapel at 10am and will join their families in worship for communion.*

PRELUDE *Aria* Charles Callahan (b. 1950)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Heike Werder

Leader: Come home, children of God. Let us enter God's holy temple.

People: We have travelled far and wide this summer, so it is good to be together again in God's house.

Leader: Come, modern pilgrims, let us gather to listen for God's voice.

People: We gather in this quiet space to find a sacred wisdom that eludes us all week long.

Leader: Come, people of God, you are the sheep of God's pasture.

People: The Good Shepherd knows his sheep and the sheep know God's voice. Let us worship God together.

***OPENING HYMN #4 (Black Hymnal) Joyful, Joyful,
We Adore You**

OPENING PRAYER

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

**Holy One, we enter this sanctuary seeking to hear your voice.
Speak Lord, for your servants are listening.
We have grown accustomed to hearing so much noise all the time.
So, too often we miss whispers of holiness.
On the way to the symphony, we miss the bird's songs.
On the way to the rock concert, we miss the wind's harmony.
Speak to us in the sweet melody of silence.**

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response *Hear My Prayer, O God*
New Century Hymnal No. 769

ANTHEM *Cantate Domino* (Psalm 149, 1-2)
Giuseppe Pitoni (1657-1743)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 15: 1-6 p. 11

SERMON Does God Keep You Up At Night? Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) #448 (Black) **Take My Life, God, Let it Be**

OFFERTORY

Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem *Ave Verum Corpus*
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

**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

ORDER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer

Prayer Response

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you Lord!

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Hymn for the Bread & Cup:

Music - #327 – Jesus Loves Me

#449 – Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith. Increase our love for one another. Send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #451 (Black)

Be Now My Vision

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Now in Peace

Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

POSTLUDE

Allegro

William Boyce (1711-1779)

**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 Leader: Heike Werder

Deacons: Rich Weitzel and Tom Mollerus

Communion: Frank Arren, Cici Hunt, Carol Oberle, Diana Conroy, Tim Barber, Mary Lou Hughes

Ushers: Frank Luppino, Nancy Lane, Eric Slosser, Alex Cullen

Altar Guild: Mary Barber

Flowers: Chris Arren

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

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

Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of every month in our church. Along with Baptism, it is one of two sacraments in the United Church of Christ.

At Holy Communion we remember that Jesus ate with his disciples on the last night before he died. In that upper room he transformed the Passover meal something new. As he broke the bread that night he reminded them that it was a symbol for his own body which was broken for all of us. As he lifted the cup of wine he told them that it was a symbol of the covenant- which had come from Abraham and Moses - between us and God.

So when we eat the bread and dip it into the cup we remember that God loved us so much that God sent Jesus. Through Christ we came to know God even better. At this table, through faith, we believe Christ joins us and comes to be our host.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey you are welcome at this table. We offer children instruction in the sacrament of Holy Communion in the second grade. We leave it to families to decide if their children will take the communion, but everyone is welcome at any age. If your child will not be taking communion but would like a short blessing, please tell one of the ministers.

When you come forward the minister will give you the bread and say –“The Bread of Heaven for you”. Many people respond saying, “Amen” or “Thanks be to God”. Dip the bread into the cup of grape juice. As you do, the Deacon will say, “The cup of salvation for you.” Again you may respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.” You are encouraged to eat the bread soaked in the juice right away, and then return to your seat down the side aisle.

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! We have several opportunities to do altar flowers in September. Please contact Chris Arren if you are interested in providing this focal point for our worship services. 781-449-4228 or call the church office.

Tonight – Potluck Supper for Parents of College Freshmen. Join us at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. The youth are all moved in and they are all set, but now you are home. Come join other parents to talk about this transition with Rev. Susan.

Sign up for Bible Study this fall. Rev. Susan will lead a study of the book Saving Jesus from the Church. Classes will be offered on Sundays at 11:30 and on Thursdays at 10:30 Sign up in Coffee Hour for a class and to reserve a book. Sunday classes begins Sept. 15; Thursday classes begins Sept. 19 .

Installation Service for Rev. Jamie Green! The Congregational Church of Needham will hold an installation service on **Sunday, September 15, at 5:00 p.m.** for Rev. Jamie Green. While she has worked at the church for three years as Youth Director, she has now been officially called as Associate Minister for Youth and Children. Following the installation service is a pizza dinner in Fellowship Hall. This is a public event to help celebrate Rev. Jamie's ministry in Needham. Friends and neighbors in the community are invited to attend. If possible, RSVP by calling 781-444-2510 or email revjamie@needhamucc.org

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. We get together in the Library on the third Sunday of the month and enjoy breakfast fare provided by volunteers. Men of all ages are welcome. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion.

August Delegation Report-Back, Sunday, September 22 at 11:30 am (LH)—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-force (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.

The Village Fair! We are accepting applications from Artists that wish to show and sell their work at the Village Fair on November 16, 2013. Applications online at <http://needhamucc.org/come/villagefair/> or email office@needhamucc.org. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Fair contact Danielle Jurdan in the office at office@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510.

