

Christmas Pageant
December 24, 2017



The Congregational
Church of Needham

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2017 4:00pm

**Please note: Children may stand on the pews after removing their shoes.
Fire codes prohibit giving candles to children.**

Children are always welcome in our sanctuary. We do not offer nursery care during our Christmas Eve Family Service, however there is space available if you or your little one needs a break, the Reception Room has a speaker with the service playing and comfy couches. Please feel free to use this space as needed.

Please remain seated for hymns except for “O Come, All Ye Faithful.”
and “Go Tell it on the Mountain”.

The congregation participates on portions printed in bold.

Thank you for participating in our Christmas Eve Family Service
featuring the Christmas Pageant.
Our worship this evening would not be the same without you here!

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Jim Mitulski, *Interim Senior Minister*
Rev. Heike Werder, *Associate Minister*
Maddie Downer, *MDiv, Director of Christian
Education & Youth Ministries*

BUILDING BETHLEHEM

THE PROCLAMATION

Narrators

Today, the human and the holy meet in Bethlehem! Today, the earth rings with the song of children. A song of peace and love. A song of salvation. Today, Christ is born.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Congregation

**On this day earth shall ring, with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us.
Peace and love he gave us. Id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o-o-o,
Id-e-o, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

THE ANNUNCIATION

Gabriel and Mary

“Gabriel’s Message”

Kids Choir

THE DECREE

Narrators

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Congregation

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee to-night.**

THE STREETS OF BETHLEHEM

Vendors and Innkeepers

“Is There Room?”

*Cici Hunt, Music & Lyrics, Pianist
Kirby Salerno, Soloist*

NO ROOM IN THE INN

Innkeepers

THE ANIMALS WELCOME THE CHRIST CHILD

Narrators and Animals

“The Friendly Beasts”

Kids Choir

THE MAGI MEET IN JERUSALEM

Narrators and Magi

AN ANGEL APPEARS TO THE SHEPHERDS

Angel, Shepherds

The First Noel

**The first Noel, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.**

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels Solo on First Verse
Congregation joins on Second Verse*

Solo:

*Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Congregation:

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE SHEPHERDS ARRIVE

THE OFFERING

*Tonight's offering helps us to continue Christ's work in the world.
Thank you for supporting The Congregational Church of Needham's work and its mission.*

Away in a Manger

Congregation

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid
down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord
Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the
sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and
love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest

Congregation

**What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard
and angels sing. Haste, Haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own
him; The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Refrain

THE ROYAL PROCESSION

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI

Magi and Attendants

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Magi

Congregation joins on chorus only:

**O-o, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

THE PROMISE

Narrators

*During the singing of the next hymns, adults and children who would like to come closer to the
nativity are invited to come to the front of the Sanctuary.*

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Congregation

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
Refrain**

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
Refrain**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Congregation

**Refrain: Go Tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born**

**While shepherds kept their watching, Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light
Refrain**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Refrain
Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn
Refrain**

MARY PONDERED ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART

Narrators

THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

All are invited to share the candlelight. Please observe the following safety notes:

“ Fire codes prohibit giving candles to children.

“ When passing the light, the

person whose candle is already lit should keep their candle upright while the other person turns theirs diagonally to light it (this keeps wax from dripping.)

“ When all candles are lit, we will raise them for the final verse of “Silent Night,” then extinguish them by “snuffing” them out after the benediction.

“ Please deposit candles in the container provided as you exit.

Silent Night

Congregation

**Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jim, Rev. Heike, Maddie

*Please raise your candle for the last verse of Silent Night and the benediction,
and extinguish them at the end.*

RECESSIONAL CAROL

Joy to the World

Congregation

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And**

**heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let all their songs employ;**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat,
Repeat the sounding joy.
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders,
Wonders of his love.
Amen.**

*The Ministers and Staff wish you and your family
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*Parents of Pageant Participants:
After the Pageant, please pick up your children in Fellowship Hall.*

Pageant Participants 2017

Children's Choir

*Mia Allen, Caroline Allgood, Kate Allgood, Kiersten Blume, Leyna Blume,
Rory Collins, Elizabeth Diepold,
Bella George, Josie George, Emery Lauck, Jameson Lauck, Emilia Massey, Maya Massey,
Katie Memory, Alex Morrison,
Ellie Noone, Emma Pretorius, Liam Salerno, Lucie Salerno, Miles Salerno,
Kaitlyn Tan, Ella Tometsko*

Shepherds	Olivia Allen, Wes Gibbons, Connor Hurley, Jameson Lauck, Emery Lauck, Alex Morrison, Henry Pretorius, Nora Slosser, Ella Tometsko, Adeline Wiesel
Adult Shepherds	Maddie Downer
Angels	Kate Allgood, Leyna Blume, Rory Collins, Josie George, Maya Massey, Charlotte Memory, Katie Memory, Natalie Orr, Lucie Salerno, Kaitlyn Tan, Eliza Williams
Adult Angels	Cathy Memory, Heather Salerno
Dove	Zack Biller
Rooster	Margot Dies
Cow	Elizabeth Diepold
Sheep	Mia Allen
Donkey	Tess Busby
Small Camel	Abby Diepold
Large Camel	Liam Salerno
Vendors	Kiersten Blume, Bella George, Abby Orr
Sweepers	Caroline Mahar, Taylor Williams
Innkeeper Family 1	Jenny George, Emilia Massey, Ellie Noone
Innkeeper Family 2	Patti & Craig Morrison, Caroline Allgood, Lina Hurley
Innkeeper Family 3	Lucy Slosser & Vendors, <i>listed above</i>

Kings' Entourage	Hadley Gibbons, Emma Pretorius
Kings' Attendants	Catherine Davis, Harrison Davis, Robert Mahar, Miles Salerno
King 1	Ken Allen
King 2	Eric Slosser
King 3	Jake George
Angel Gabriel	Tillie Slosser
Scary Angel	Cole Tometsko
Narrators	Betty Blume, Cy Hopkins
Joseph	Kirby Salerno
Mary	Gretchen Lanka Allen
Baby Jesus	Lucy Dyrn
Ushers	Kate Allgood, Leyna Blume, Rory Collins, Josie George, Alex Morrison, Cole Tometsko
Stage Hand	Laine Wiesel
Tech Crew	Tom Cohen
Costume Crew	Amy Massey, Amanda Allgood, Angeline Maughan
Pageant Lunch	Men's Breakfast Fellowship, Rev. Heike Werder
Lunch Assistants	Julie Roden
Theatrical Director	Teresa Blume
Children's Choir Director	Cici Hunt
Organist	Sangyoung Kim

*Our Christmas pageant truly takes a village.
Thank you to all of the families, church members, and friends
who supported and brought this pageant to life
in so many different ways!*

Family & Youth Ministries
at the Congregational Church of Needham, United Church of Christ

Join us for worship on Sunday morning, where we offer programs for our children and students including a nursery for crib/toddler/pre-k children, Sunday School classes for lower and upper elementary and middle school.

Youth fellowship is offered for middle school (JR High) and high school (SR High) students most Sunday evenings as well as special events like our Halloween musical, church lock-ins/retreats, mission trips, and special fundraisers.

If you're interested in learning more about any of programs, please contact Maddie Downer, our director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries at youth@needhamucc.org or 781-444-2510 x 104.

Vacation Bible School: Camp Courage!

Tuesday , April 17-Friday, April 20

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Students in Pre-K through grade 5 are invited to join our April Vacation Bible School: Camp Courage! Using camping-themed lessons and activities, we will learn about God's love for us and how to be faithful and courageous! Arts and crafts, cooking, science, and games are all used. Students bring their own lunches.

Join our mailing list to learn more! Email youth@needhamucc.org

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, Rev Heike at 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

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, Snapchat, 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
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Associate Minister—The Rev. Heike Werder
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Organist/Accompanist—Sangyoung Kim

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The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus