



**CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM**

December 15, 2013

Theme: Family

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, December 15, 2013

10:00am

Childcare is available downstairs in the NEW crib/toddler room for infants and toddlers. Preschoolers, Grades 7-8, and 9-12 go directly downstairs to classes at 10am. Grades K-6 starts in the sanctuary and leave after "Time for Children" to the chapel and then go to their workshops. K-1st in Art, 2nd-3rd in Theatre,, and 4th-6th in Games. All workshops are downstairs in the main hallway.

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming
arr. Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike Ellis

Leader: Let us light the candles of faith.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of hope, where despair stands guard.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of peace, for tempest-tossed days.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of love to inspire our day.

People: Come, Lord Jesus Come.

Leader: A candle of joy to lift our spirits.

People: Come among us Holy One, as we sing.

***OPENING HYMN #126 (NCH)**

Angels From the
Realms of Glory

OPENING PRAYER

Mike Ellis

Call to Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

Unison Prayer

Like a tune in our heads, that won't let up,

Like a long-lost friend who finds us,

Like a healing we cannot explain,

Like the words of a prayer that binds us,

Like hope that won't bow to despair,

Lord Jesus, come again, to remind us

That we are your people.

Help us to prepare for your arrival, as we pray...

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts & debtors)

Prayer Response

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

arr. Burkhardt Matthias Schürmann (b. 1972) text: Hymn 131, PH

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

(Led by members of the 2014 Confirmation Class)

Advent Liturgy

We have lit two candles – for hope, and for peace. Today we light the third candle – the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than death. We love, because God loves us.

Lighting of the Candle of Love

Prayer

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.

As these candles are lit, light our love with your imagination.

Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that

comes from justice. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our

hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ's love. Amen.

ANTHEM

Season of Joy
John Leavitt and Linda Marcus

TIME FOR CHILDREN (Children to Bible Village after song.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN (#526)

We Are Marching In
The Light of God

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

NT p.1

SERMON

“When No One is Watching”

Susan Cartmell

HYMN (seated) #116 (NCH)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Verses 6 & 7

MORNING PRAYER

Heike Werder

Concerns and Celebrations

Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: O Lord, show your mercy upon us.

People: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

People: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Leader: Let us pray.

Pastoral Prayer

Congregational Response

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

Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
arr. John Rutter (b. 1945), text: Hymn 107, PH

***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 # 131(NCH)** It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

A Christmas Blessing
Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

****You are invited to stand.***

(NCH) stands for New Century Hymnal

- 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: Mike Ellis

Deacons: Fred Moder, Tim Barber

Ushers: Mike Normile, Janet Jankowiak, Bob Everts, Jim Conroy

Altar Guild: Mary Barber

Flowers: Connie Kaufman

Flower Delivery: Martha Lamb

The flowers on the altar are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jerry Browne by his wife and family.



BLUE CHRISTMAS Healing Service

Tuesday
December 17
7:00p.m.

**This service is open
to everyone.**

The Congregational Church of Needham

1154 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, Massachusetts 02492

Telephone 781-444-2510; Fax 781-444-3580

E-mail: office@needhamucc.org

www.needhamucc.org

The Rev. Susan Cartmell, Senior Minister
The Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
The Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music Ministries
Valerie Becker, Dir of Youth Music
The Rev. Dr. Paul Clayton, Pastor Emeritus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY! Dec. 15, 2013 - The Rev. Dr. Brita Gill-Austern

presents: Giving the Gifts that Matter: Hope, Faith and Love -

Christmas is a time where we turn to gift giving and forget that the most precious gifts we can give another are faith, hope and love. The Bible has long told us of the preciousness of these gifts, come and learn what scientific, medical and sociological research is now discovering about faith, hope and love and how you might give the most important gifts of all. Please join us for lunch and lecture in the Library after worship.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Today – Dec. 15 at 11:30am

- Sun., December 15th: 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)
- Sun., December 22nd: 11:30am-2pm: Rehearsal (lunch included)
- Tues., Dec. 24th: 2-4pm: Dress Rehearsal (snacks included)
- Tuesday, December 24th: 4-5pm: Performance

Bible Study – Sunday Group: The Sunday Group meets in the Reception Room at 11:30 a.m.; Newcomers are welcome. Contact Sunu Yeh for more information- dormouse99@gmail.com.

Thursday 10:30am group will next meet in January with a new book on the 23rd Psalm- The Lord is My Shepherd by Rabbi Harold Kushner. Contact Christine Weitzel for information crweitz@verizon.net

BLUE Christmas SERVICE Tuesday Dec. 17, Chapel at 7 p.m.

This is a Christmas Service for people in the church and community who need a little extra HOPE this year. Not everyone is looking forward to a very merry Christmas. Some people have a diagnosis, a longstanding illness, a family problem, a professional setback. Rev. Susan will speak. Simple hymns with Cello and Recorder. Follow the luminary to the Chapel door.

Christmas Caroling: Sun, Dec 22, 4-6pm

For all ages! Meet at church at 4pm to carol at 3 nursing homes and 1 Needham neighborhood, then back to church for cookies and cocoa!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

NOW- We are collecting donations in memory of loved ones for the poinsettias that decorate the church at Christmas time. Christmas Flower Offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex and church office. Please return envelopes to the office by Dec. 19.

NOMINATIONS -- If you are interested in serving on the church Board or one of its standing committees (Deacons, Outreach, Christian Education and Youth), please let us know! The ad hoc nominations committee is putting together a slate for January's annual meeting. If you would like to serve please get in touch with Martha Lamb (Martha_lamb@aol.com) or Jane Brand (ajbrand@comcast.net)!

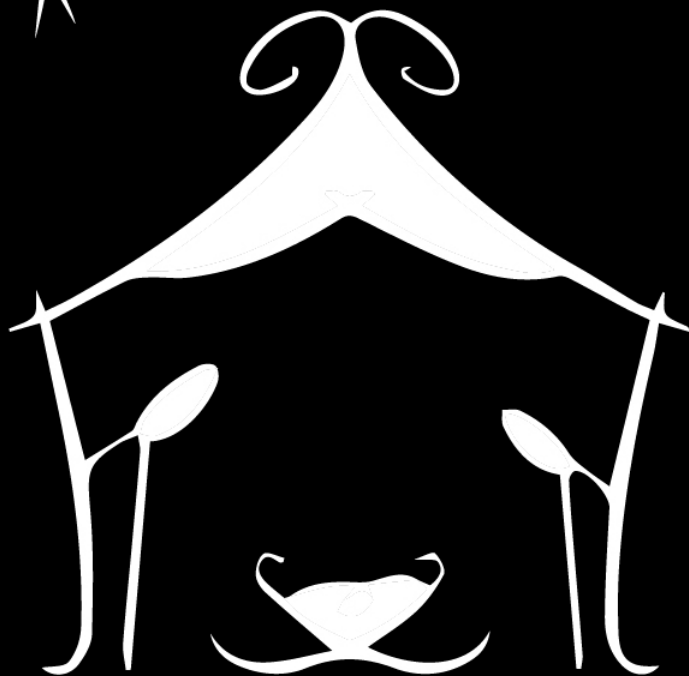
Alternative Giving in December - Looking for a Christmas gift for the person who doesn't need any more "stuff"? Consider a donation to the Guatemala Partnership. You will receive a 'gift' card for the person you're honoring. Drop by the Guatemala table in Fellowship Hall after worship Sundays through Christmas. Colorful calendars are also be available for purchase.

Reminder to Partner Families - Remember your partner family in Santa Maria Tzeja as you celebrate the Christmas season. It's a perfect time to write so that the letter can be translated and delivered by the Feb delegation. E-mail letters to: davejohnson@verizon.net by Jan. 4th. 'Hard-copy' photos, cards, & other inserts can be delivered later to the Guatemala Partnership box in the office. Several families in SMT are awaiting new Needham families to correspond with, so if you would like to learn more about the program, please let Dave Johnson know.

CALENDAR December 15 – December 26

<p align="center">Sunday December 15th</p>	<p>8:15am Men's Breakfast, <i>Library</i> 9am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 10am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30am Adult Ed.- Brita Gill-Austern, <i>Library</i> Pageant Lunch, <i>Linden Hall</i> Noon Pageant Rehearsal, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> 4pm Junior High Bowling 7pm Senior High Youth Group</p>
<p align="center">Mon. December 16th</p>	<p>9am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i></p>
<p align="center">Tues. Dec. 17th</p>	<p>7pm Blue Christmas Service, <i>Chapel,</i></p>
<p align="center">Thurs. December 19th</p>	<p>Noon Advent Lunch with Heike, <i>Library</i> 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i></p>
<p align="center">Sunday December 22nd</p>	<p>9am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, <i>Sanct.</i> 9:15am Joyful Noise Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 10am Worship, <i>Sanctuary</i> 11:30am Bible Study, <i>Conference Room</i> Pageant Lunch, <i>Linden Hall</i> Noon Pageant Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> Shepherd Staff Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i> 4pm Christmas Caroling, <i>Church</i></p>
<p align="center">Mon. December 23rd</p>	<p>9am Cancer Support Group, <i>Reception Room</i></p>
<p align="center">Tuesday December 24th</p>	<p>2pm Pageant Dress Rehearsal, <i>Sanctuary</i> 4pm Christmas Pageant, <i>Sanctuary</i> 9pm Candlelight Worship Service, <i>Sanctuary</i></p>
<p align="center">December 25th & 26th</p>	<p>Offices Closed</p>

Christmas Eve



4pm - Christmas Pageant
Family service.

9pm - Candlelight Service



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM