



ABIDE IN MY LOVE



John 15:9-17 | Communion & Sixth Sunday of Easter
5/5 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE
Connect @ www.NeedhamUCC.com

The Congregational Church of Needham, *United Church of Christ*

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Rev. Maddie Foster, *acting senior minister*
Valerie Becker, *director of music*
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May 5, 2024: Sixth Sunday in Eastertide

PRELUDE

The Invocation by Cris Williamson

Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Rev. Maddie Foster

CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from a prayer by Joanna Harader based on "The Welcome Table"*

One: We gather to worship God, who calls us together.

MANY: We gather together to share a holy meal.

One: We gather around this table

MANY: This table to which Christ has invited us.

One: You've got a place at this table

MANY: We've all got a place at this table.

One: We'll feast on milk and honey

MANY: And all God's children are gonna sit together.

ALL: Let us worship God together, in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed.

HYMN

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly *(see below)*

TIME FOR CHILDREN

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

from the Gospels, John 15:9-17

SERMON

"Abide in My Love"

Rev. Maddie Foster

HYMN

Like the Woman at the Well *(see below)*

SHARING OUR PRAYERS ("O God, hear our prayer")

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(using these or whichever words are closest to your own heart)*

Our Father/Mother in heaven, holy is your name. Your reign come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Bread of Heaven Mock & Lopez

Chancel Choir

SHARING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION*

(together, using whatever food & drink you have on hand if participating online)

** For our celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion / The Eucharist / The Lord's Supper today, those in the sanctuary who wish to partake will be invited to come down the center aisle to receive a piece of gluten-free bread from a Deacon and take for themselves a serving of juice (pre-set in a compostable cup). As always, all bread is gluten-free and all juice is non-alcoholic and ALL ARE INVITED. You do not need to be a member of this congregation or any congregation, but simply desire to receive this blessing in your life. Come, friends, taste and see the goodness of God!*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

Come to the Table of Grace *(see below)*

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

SINGING OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts—Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Would you like to make this congregation your church home?

Would you like to know more about what it means to be a member here?

Reach out to Rev. Maddie at revmaddie@needhamucc.org



Kids'N'Church

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! Quiet books and pew pals (soft toys) are available in our **family room**, just outside the sanctuary, where you'll also find a cozy couch, big toy box, and a speaker that broadcasts the service. All bathrooms have **changing tables**. Our **Nursery** is available for infants & toddlers when volunteers are available. **Sunday School** (for children in older Pre-K through Grade 5) and **Youth Group** (grades 6-12) are both offered during our 10am worship service, typically on the 2nd & 4th Sundays. All children and youth remain in the sanctuary with their families to share **communion** (as parents decide), usually on the first Sunday of the month.

Have questions about our Children's and Youth Ministries?

Check in with Rev. Maddie after the service or email RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org



Your offering makes a difference.

There are many ways to give if you feel called to participate in the ministry of this congregation financially. You can leave a cash or check offering in the collection plate in the foyer outside the sanctuary. Paypal, credit, or debit card donations can be made online at: www.NeedhamUCC.org/giving

Thank you for your generous contributions to support the work of our congregation and our ministry partners in our community and around the world.

Come to the Table of Grace

1. Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

2. *Come to the table of peace ...*
3. *Come to the table of love ...*
4. *Come to the table of hope ...*
5. *Come to the table of joy...*

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: May 5, 2024



We Need YOU to Teach Sunday School & Youth Group!

We strive to offer Sunday School, Youth Group, and a Nursery at least twice a month. We rely on the time and talents of volunteers to hold classes. If volunteers are not available, a one-room-schoolhouse may be offered instead, with no nursery care.

Sign up at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CEYouth2324>

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Sunday, May 12: | SS - Needs 1 volunteer | YG - Needs 1-2 | Nursery - Needs 2 |
| Sunday May 19: | SS - Needs 1-2 volunteers | YG - Needs 1-2 | Nursery - Needs 2 |
| Sunday, June 9: | SS - Needs 2 volunteers | YG - Needs 1-2 | Nursery - Needs 2 |
| Sunday, June 16: | SS - Needs 2 volunteers | YG - Needs 1-2 | Nursery - Needs 2 |



Sabbatical Project: Lay Preachers Series

While Rev. John is on sabbatical, we're reconnecting to our ministry as a congregation through a series of sermons delivered by church members serving on our ministry teams. **Outreach will be our final team preaching on Sunday, May 12.** These preaching teams have worked with our consulting pastor, Rev. Chris Mereschuk, to share with us not just what they do, but why, and how it connects to their faith and our shared faith. Please make plans to attend those Sundays to support your fellow members and learn more about who we are as a congregation and who God is calling us to become.

Needham UCC & Me: Our Local Church & Denomination

Sunday, May 5 @ 11:11, Reception room

Learn about the ministry of our church and our participation in our denomination, the United Church of Christ. This program is open to anyone but can be particularly useful for folks who have recently become members or who are considering making Needham UCC their spiritual home through membership.

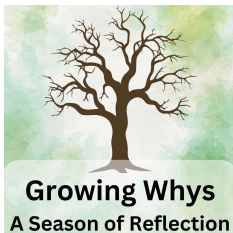


Growing Whys: A Season of Reflection

Contribute your intention to our "Growing Whys" beginning April 21!

Our preaching teams have reflected on the "whys" of their ministries within our church community. Now you are invited to set an intention for yourself and the ways you hope to grow in relationship and engage in the life and ministry of the church. Write your intention on the leaf post-its provided during worship and add it to our tree or message the Zoom greeter and they can add one for you. *In the fall, you'll be invited to reflect on the ways you've lived into that intention, or ways you understand your intention in a new way. You*

may wish to hold on to some symbol, photo, or small token of your intention from your summer months to bring back and share.



Guatemala Delegation Report Back

Sunday, May 5 @ 7 PM, live on Zoom

All are invited to join travelers from the February 2024 delegation to Guatemala for a Zoom presentation on Sunday, May 5th, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. We will share video and photo highlights and updates on community development, education and fun interactions with students and families. Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/smtreportback>



SAVE THE DATE: Welcome Back BBQ for Rev. John! (And Confirmation! And Pentecost!)

Sunday, May 19 @ 11:11, Fellowship Hall

Join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday, May 19 when we welcome Rev. John back from sabbatical (and celebrate Confirmation and Pentecost!) with a big BBQ! Can you

help with setting up? Email RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1. All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2. All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3. All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam - ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.



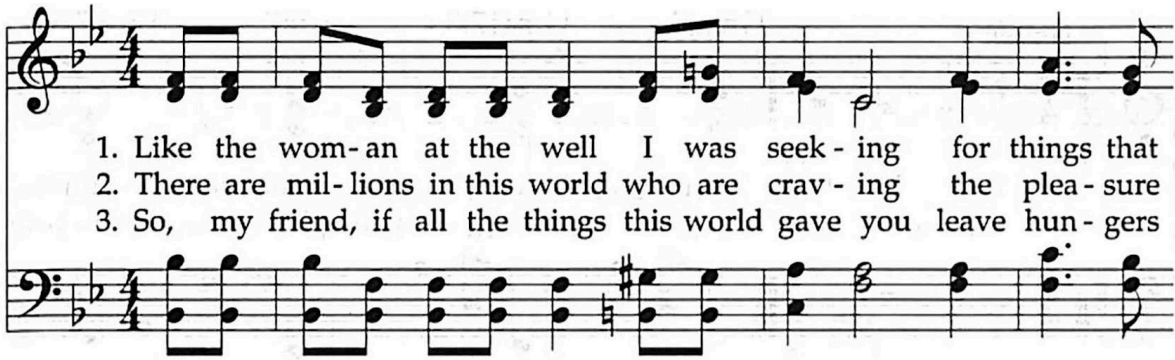
You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



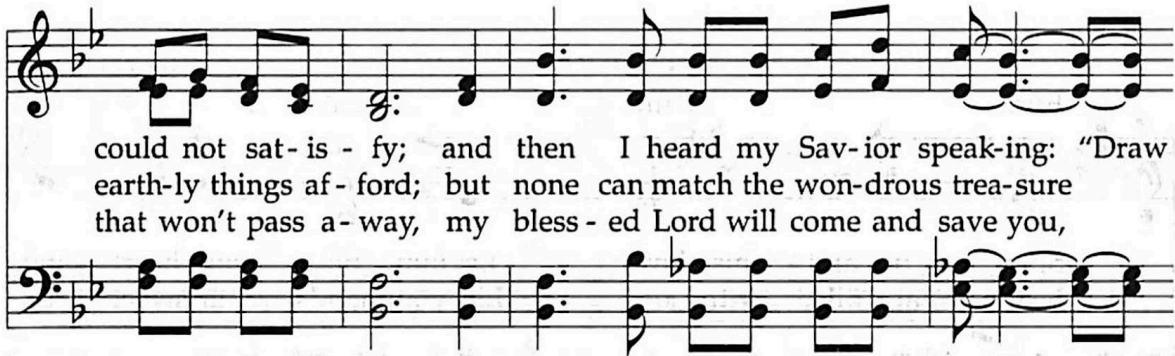
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
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Like the Woman at the Well



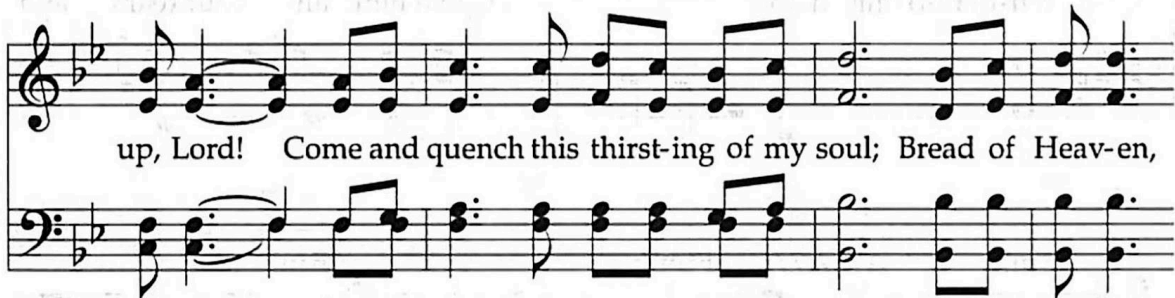
1. Like the wom-an at the well I was seek - ing for things that
2. There are mil-lions in this world who are crav - ing the plea - sure
3. So, my friend, if all the things this world gave you leave hun - gers



could not sat-is - fy; and then I heard my Sav-ior speak-ing: "Draw
earth-ly things af - ford; but none can match the won-drous trea-sure
that won't pass a - way, my bless - ed Lord will come and save you,



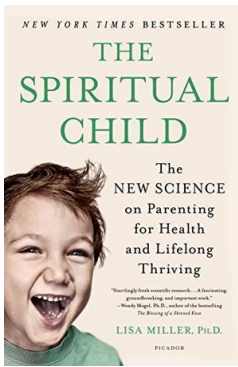
from my well that nev-er shall run dry."
that I find in Je-sus Christ my Lord. Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it
if you kneel to him and hum-bly pray:



up, Lord! Come and quench this thirst-ing of my soul; Bread of Heav-en,



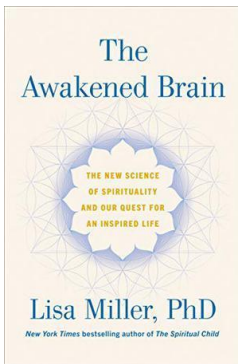
feed me 'til I want no more—fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!



Summer Reading Groups: The Spiritual Child & The Awakened Brain

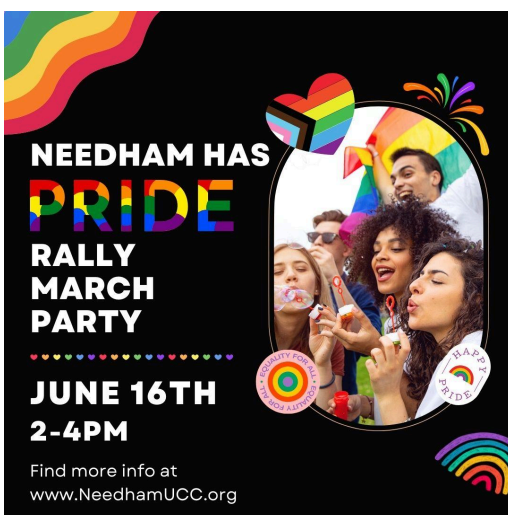
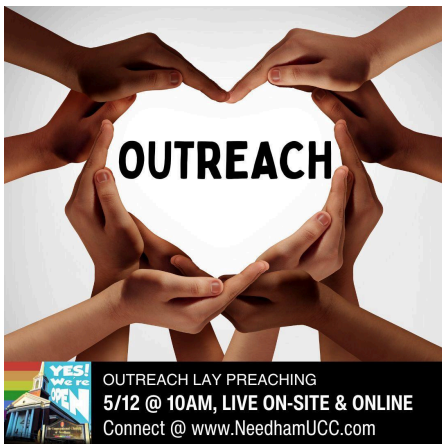
You're invited to join the Christian Education committee and our friends at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church in two reads this summer. *The Spiritual Child* will be offered to parents of young children, while *The Awakened Brain* is offered to folks across the lifespan. Both groups will have the opportunity to meet via Zoom to chat about what you've uncovered in your reading.

Parents reading *The Spiritual Child* will meet on the second Tuesdays at 7pm (June 11, July 9, August 13) and folks reading *The Awakened Brain* will meet with Rev. Maddie on the third Tuesdays at 7pm (June 18, July 16, August 20). Dr. Miller will join us in Wellesley (and on Zoom) in September to discuss her work.



"Hundreds of books discuss parenting issues, but *The Spiritual Child* is a special resource with a focus on fostering children's spiritual lives. Perceptive, thought-provoking, and heavily researched, this is a valuable book for anyone interested in spiritual development in children, adolescents, and families." – Gretchen Rubin, #1 NYT best selling author of *The Happiness Project*

"Dr. Miller is a consummate scientist who refuses to accept one of our culture's most pervasive and damaging assumptions: that science and spirituality are at odds. She unequivocally shows that spirituality heals."—Larry Dossey, MD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Healing Words*



NEEDHAM HAS PRIDE: Join us for a "family-sized" RALLY! MARCH! & PARTY!

Sunday, June 16 @ 2-4pm

beginning at First Parish in Needham, UU, 23 Dedham Ave
ending at The Congregational Church of Needham, UCC, 1154 Great Plain Ave

Needham gathers for a "family-sized" celebration to show love for, support of, and pride in our LGBTQ+ neighbors, especially queer families and the youngest among us. Please wear your favorite all-ages-friendly Pride outfit and bring your signs of support!

Questions? Email RevMaddie@needhamucc.org

