

CONNECTED



Pentecost Sunday
5/28 @ 10am, LIVE! On-Site & Online
Connect at www.NeedhamUCC.org



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

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Rev. Maddie Foster, *minister for Christian education & youth*

Valerie Becker, *director of music*

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May 28, 2023: Pentecost Sunday

PRELUDE

Chaconne in g minor, by L. Couperin
Valerie Becker, *organ*

WELCOME

Rev. John MacIver Gage, Rev. Maddie Foster

THE STORY OF PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21 (*The Message*)

One: When the Feast of Pentecost came, the disciples were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force - no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building.

Many: *<congregation makes wind noises>*

One: Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck.

Many: *<congregation makes crowd noises:
“WatermelonWatermelon”>*

One: They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, “Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs! They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!” Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it.

Many: Huh?

One: They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine." That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "My siblings, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk - it's only nine o'clock in the morning.

Many: Ohhh, okay then. So what's this all about?

One: "This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen: 'In the Last Days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy. I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billowing smoke, the sun turning black and the moon blood-red, before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous; and whoever calls out for help to God will be saved.'"

Many: Come, Holy Spirit! Connect us to you and to one another, each and every other. By the lightning leap of your wonder-working power, bring justice, peace, and compassion to the world!

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

HYMN

Spirit of the Living God (see below)

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Maddie Foster

WE PRAY: Help

HYMN *Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God (see below)*

WE PRAY: Thanks

HYMN *Holy River of the Spirit (see below)*

WE PRAY: Wow

HYMN *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (see below)*

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 *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"* Chancel Choir
by M. Burkhardt (based on *Bridegroom* by P. Cutts)
Rose Whitcomb, *clarinet*

*Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
Like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the vine,
To the Church in faith assembled, to the midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.*

*With the healing of divisions, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
With the pow'r to love and witness, with the peace beyond
compare: Oh come, Holy Spirit, come.*

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN

The Spirit Dwells Within Us All (see below)

BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

SUNG AMEN



Kids'N'Church

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! Quiet books and pew pals (soft toys) are available in the foyer outside the sanctuary doors. If your family needs a quieter space, our **reception room** has comfy chairs, a big toy box, a pack and play, and a speaker that broadcasts the service. You'll find the reception room by going right outside the sanctuary, the set of double doors in the elbow of the hall. All bathrooms have **changing tables**. **Pre-K** children who are potty trained are welcome to join our elementary Sunday school activities.

Parents are always welcome to accompany their child at any age. **Sunday School** (for children in older Pre-K through Grade 5) and **Youth Group** (for students in grades 6 through 12) are both offered during our 10am worship service as scheduled. 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 following the service or email

RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org



from the Ministerial Review Team
Ministerial Review Surveys Online

Every year we conduct a review of our ministers' performance, and we welcome all congregants' input. If you would like to participate in this annual review process for Rev. John and/or Rev. Maddie, please fill out the survey(s) at the following link(s) no later than Monday, 5/29. The Ministerial Review Team will compile and anonymize the feedback from the congregation, and share it with each minister later this summer. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please talk to one of the members of the Ministerial Review Team: Robert Kennedy, r.h.kennedy@me.com, 617.835.1194; Tom Mollerus, tom@mollerus.net, 617.216.9647; Rich Weitzel, rsweitzel@verizon.net. 617.901.0792; Dibby Moder, dmoder@verizon.net, 781-864-3192.

Rev. John: <https://forms.gle/pM3JZXMFMYor4nu7>

Rev. Maddie: <https://forms.gle/DNSykWM2jNvL6FVf7>



Mindful Meditation ONLINE

Sundays @ 7pm LIVE! via Zoom

at <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79920727588>

What is mindful meditation? *It's a type of meditation in which you focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress. Who couldn't use more of that? Join longtime practitioner Sue Findlay and others Sunday evenings online via Zoom.*

SAVE THE DATE!

**All-Church Family Picnic outside on the lawn, after worship
on Sunday, June 4.**

Bring your lunch. We'll supply dessert!

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.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all.

Find us, join us, bind us, free us.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all.

Spirit of the living God, make us one in love.

Spirit of the living God, make us one in love.

Humble, caring, conscious, daring.

Spirit of the living God, make us one in love.

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Come, teach us, Spirit of our God, the language of your way, the lessons that we need to live, the faith for every day.

Excite our minds to follow you, to trace new paths in store, new flightpaths, for our spirit space, new marvels to explore.

Engage in our wits to dance with you, to leap from logic's base, to capture insight on the wing, to sense your cosmic grace;

Inspire our spark to light from you, to catch creations flair, new artistry to celebrate, new harmonies to dare.

Delight our hearts to worship you, to learn compassion's code, to live in context of your love, great teacher who is God!

Holy River of the Spirit

Holy river of the Spirit, bathe the wounds that living brings.
Plunge our pain, our sin, our sadness deep beneath your sacred springs.
Weary from the restless searching that has lured us from your side,
we discover in your presence peace the world cannot provide.

Living stream that heals the nations, make us channels of your pow'r.
All the world is torn by conflict; wars are raging at this hour.
Saving Spirit, move among us, guide our winding human course,
till we find our way together, flowing homeward to our Source.

Wellspring of the healing Spirit, stream that flows to bring release,
as we gain our selves our senses, may our lives reflect your peace.
Grateful for the flood that heals us, may your church enact your grace.
As we meet both friend and stranger, may we see our Savior's face.

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.” *Refrain*

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
When they were confounded by their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. *Refrain*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *Refrain*

The Spirit Dwells Within Us All

The Spirit dwells within us all, inspiring justice-love;
She sends her liberating call on wings just like a dove.

Our world is crying in disress; so many suffer wrong;
we now lament, repent, confess, complacent far too long.

We now rise up for equity, for race and gender rights;
We work to set all people free from ev'ry unjust plight.

The earth, the waters, and the air all groan beneath our greed.
The Spirit calls us to repair this world our God has made.

The Spirit still inspires our dreams of justice-love and peace;
Her glorious vision brightly beams, a new world to release.