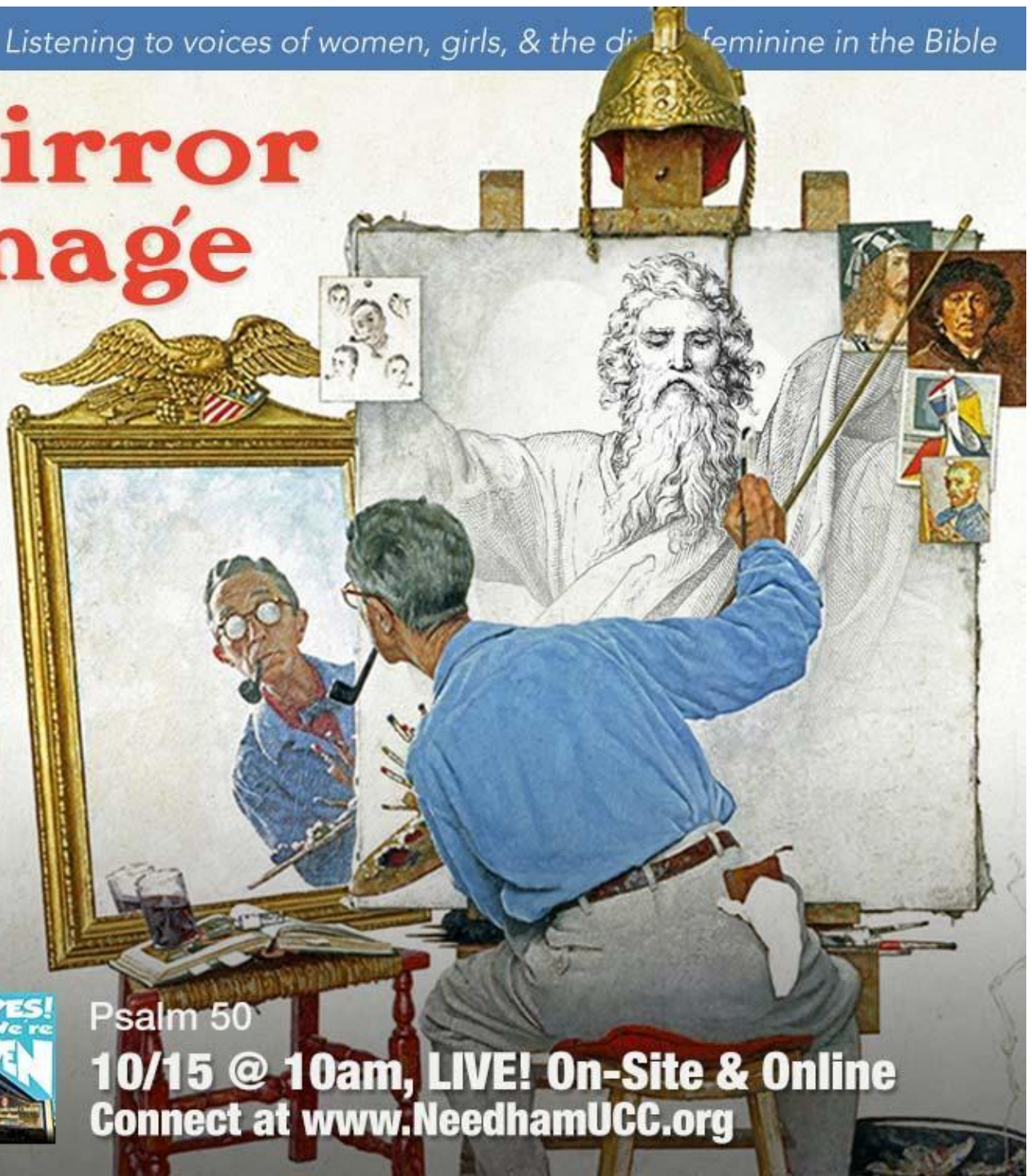


Year W Listening to voices of women, girls, & the diverse feminine in the Bible

Mirror Image



Psalm 50

10/15 @ 10am, LIVE! On-Site & Online
Connect at www.NeedhamUCC.org

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

1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham MA 02492 / Tel 781.444.2510 / www.NeedhamUCC.org / IG @NeedhamUCC

Rev. John Gage, *senior minister*

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

Valerie Becker, *director of music*

Robin Bevilacqua, *church administrator*

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October 15, 2023

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10a

GATHERING *The Larger God (excerpts)*, T.E. Winecoff (1867-1942)
Chancel Choir

*Your paltry schemes of doubt-cursed men,
Your little God to creeds trimmed down,
Your limits set by tongue and pen,
Your heaven but an elfin town—*

*A larger God than these I own.
My God who once the star-fields sowed,
Hath surely since no lesser grown,
Nor heaven walled with priestling's code.*

With fire the hymnist never knew

*I've seen God touch the outcast's lip,
And folk that human creeds had
damned
God gave the wine divine to sip.*

*With doubting, damning rule and line
You wall God's larger presence out;
Unbounded God hail I as mine—
And leave your creeds God's heart to
doubt.*

WELCOME

John MacIver Gage, Rev. Maddie Foster

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95:1-3, 6-7

One: Come, let us sing to the Lord;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

One: O come, let us worship and bow down;

Many: let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

One: For the Lord is our God,

Many: and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

One: O that today we would listen to God's voice!

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

HYMN

How Can We Name a Love

(see below)

TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Maddie Foster

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

from the Psalms, Psalm 50

SERMON “Mirror Image” Rev. John MacIver Gage

HYMN *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* (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 *Alleluia* Chancel Choir

J.S. Bach, adapted & arranged by R. Robinson

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

OFFERING OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures, here below.

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

BLESSING FOR THE JOURNEY

POSTLUDE



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



We Need YOU to Teach Sunday School!

Both our Sunday School and Youth Group programs rely on the help of volunteers to teach and lead! All of the material prep is done in advance by Rev. Maddie and lesson plans are available online to make teaching as straightforward as possible for our volunteers. When you arrive to teach you simply grab the box marked for that Sunday, give everything a once-over, and prepare to welcome kids to the classroom! **Sign up at this link:**

<https://tinyurl.com/CEYouth2324>

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: October 15, 2023

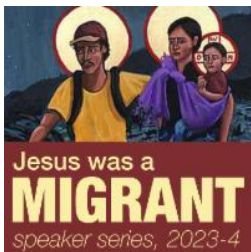


After Worship TODAY!

Finance Team Update & Property Team Review of Proposed Alcohol Policy for Renters

10/15 @ 11:11am LIVE! on-site and online via Zoom <http://zoom.us/j/907548568>

This Sunday, please plan to stay and listen to updates on two important initiatives. First, Jim Conroy will provide a brief update on the state of the church's finances, primarily good news as to how we track against our 2023 budget for operating revenue and expense through Sept 30, but also the current state of our Endowment and Capital Campaign fund investments. As we approach the start of our annual Stewardship Campaign in a few weeks, this will give you a good sense of where we stand as we begin to build a 2024 budget for Congregational approval at the Annual Meeting in January.



Jesus was a Migrant: Issues in Modern American Immigration

Gerry Rovner, "Immigration Facts vs Fabrication"

10/22 @ 11:11am after worship, LIVE! on-site and online via Zoom <http://zoom.us/j/907548568>

The Outreach Committee has planned a series of speakers for the 2023-4 addressing issues in modern American immigration. The first presentation, "Immigration Facts vs Fabrication," will take place on Sunday, 10/22 @ 11:11am, on-site & online via Zoom, right after worship. Our speaker will be Gerry Rovner, a retired immigration attorney who has been a longtime leader in immigration law here in Massachusetts. He served as a member of the Massachusetts Governor's Advisory Council on Immigrants and Refugees for 25 years, and stays current with national and state immigration laws, policies, and practices. He serves currently as the Chair of the Needham Area Immigration Justice Task Force. (See discussions questions on page 11)



Trunk or Treat: Saturday, 10/28 @ 2-4:30pm Volunteers & Donations Needed!

Share some not-so-spooky fun with families who come to "trunk or treat" in our church parking lot. Volunteer to decorate your car and hand out treats and/or donate approved allergy-free treats through our Amazon Wishlist!

Use this **Sign Up Genius to volunteer:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4EAFAD2CAAFF2-44348997-trunk#/>

Wishlist:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ENOFKT549MM1?ref =wshare](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ENOFKT549MM1?ref_=wshare)



Singers and Chimers Need You!

Help the Choirs and Chimers continue to bring beautiful music to our worship services. You can sing or chime for a season or just for the Christmas Concert. Our annual Christmas Concert of carols and seasonal music is planned for the afternoon of Dec. 3. If interested please contact

Valerie Becker at musicdirector@needhamucc.org or Deb Abraham at debabraham@comcast.net.



1, 2, 3, Play! A New Group for Babies/Toddlers & Caregivers!

Older babies (crawling or thinking about it) and toddlers and their caregivers are invited to join Rev. Maddie and McCoy for a brand new small group beginning Tuesday, October 3! We'll start with circle time (songs and stories)

for littles and then caregivers will have an opportunity for conversation and connection while free play is offered for littles. We'll have indoor climbing toys, foam blocks, a ball pit, and other assorted toys for our friends to play with. **Registration is required**; once you register you can attend weekly or once in a while. Please **email**

RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org to sign up!



Guatemala Report Back

Sunday, October 29th at 7:30 We invite you to our report back from the August Delegation to Santa María Tzejá on October 29th at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be hosted on Zoom, and you can join the meeting with this link:

<https://mit.zoom.us/j/92025248519> You can learn more

about the unprecedented events surrounding the recent elections in Guatemala and the impact on Santa María Tzejá. We will also be highlighting many important community development projects we observed and discussed with community leaders as well as future opportunities and challenges for education. We look forward to sharing these details and more from the recent visit.

Family Promise Metrowest Gala Announcement Thursday, 11/ 2 @ 6:30pm at the Framingham Country Club



Family Promise Metrowest has been supporting Families facing Homelessness for 15 years. Our Church has supported that mission since the beginning. FPM is hosting

a Gala on Thursday Nov 2 to celebrate the success and raise funds to support the continuation of the mission. The Gala begins at 6:30 pm at the Framingham Country Club. If you are unable to attend the Gala you can participate in the online Auction from the comfort of your home. Tickets to the Gala and access to the Online Auction can be found here:

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/mBy/> For questions contact our FPM coordinator, Vance Fernandez at **vancefernandez@hotmail.com** or 617-816-5871.



Mindful Meditation ONLINE **Sundays @ 7pm LIVE! via Zoom**

at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79920727588>

What is mindful meditation? *Focusing 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. Join longtime practitioner Sue Findlay and others Sunday evenings online.*

How Can We Name a Love

How can we name a love that wakens heart and mind,
in dwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?

Within our daily world, in every human face,
love's echoes sound and God is found,
hid in the common place.

If we awoke to life upheld by loving care
that asked no great reward but firm, assured,
was simply there, we can, with parents' names,
describe, and thus adore, love unconfined,
a father kind, a mother strong and sure.

When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,
that all should share, create and care,
and know that life is good.

So, in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.

Yet names and titles all shine in a brighter sun;
in Christ alone is love full grown life and hope begun.

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

God you spin the whirling planets,
fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.

We created in your image,
would a true reflection be of your justice
grace and mercy and the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship joined in one community.

When we blur your gracious image,
focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people,
we move onward toward your goal.

God, your word is still creating,
calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortions.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus new creatures in your image,
We'll proclaim Christ ev'rywhere.

Discussion Questions for Guest Speaker on October 22, 2023.

GERALD C. ROVNER

IMMIGRATION FACTS OR FABRICATION

1. **BENEFIT OR BURDEN?** Immigrants and refugees are a drag on the US economy, have a high arrest record, and collect welfare in high numbers. True or False?
2. **REFUGEE/ASYLUM ISSUES:** Many people believe that people in the US illegally receive more in federal assistance than the average American gets in Social Security benefits. True or False?
3. **BEING UNDOCUMENTED IS NOT A CRIME.** True or False?
4. **DETENTION:** Undocumented foreign nationals, the vast majority of whom are criminals, must be kept detained (in private prisons) because they disappear once released and fail to appear for their Immigration Court hearings. True or False?
5. **FENTANYL:** The Chinese and Mexican criminal networks that produce and distribute fentanyl are vast and hard to pin down. But when it comes to getting their products into the United States, one thing is clear: it's mostly US Citizens smuggling it into the country through legal ports of entry. True or False?
6. **ANYONE CAN ENTER THE US:** True or False?
7. **A PERSON HAS THE OPTION OF CHOOSING BETWEEN A "GREEN CARD" OR US CITIZENSHIP:** True or False?
8. **BIRTH TOURISM:** Many people believe large numbers of foreign women seek to obtain tourist visas so their children may be born in the U.S. and receive citizenship. True or False?
9. **HIRING FOREIGN WORKERS IS CHEAPER THAN HIRING US WORKERS:** True or False?