

# PRAYER & CARE



LENT 2

2/25 @ 10AM, LIVE ONSITE & ONLINE  
CONNECT @ [WWW.NEEDHAMUCC.ORG](http://WWW.NEEDHAMUCC.ORG)



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

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Rev. John Gage, *senior minister*  
Rev. Maddie Foster, *acting senior minister*  
Valerie Becker, *director of music*  
Robin Bevilacqua, *church administrator*  
Cindy Sullivan, *financial administrator*  
Tom Mollerus, *moderator*  
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

*on sabbatical*  
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## February 25, 2024: 2nd Sunday in Lent

This morning's worship service is the first in our Lay Preaching series. Throughout this sabbatical season, members of different groups within the congregation will offer a reflection on their "Why." Today's reflections are offered by members of the Prayer and Care Team.

Members of our Prayer & Care Team include: John Baldwin, Sue Cotton, Mary Lou Hughes, Martha Lamb, Carol Miller, Dibby Moder, Stephanie Oddleifson, and Joanne Seiden

**GATHERING** *Fantasia No. 11, Buxtehude* Valerie Becker, *organ*

**WELCOME** Rev. Maddie Foster

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *based on Matthew 25:31-46*

**One:** We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:

**Many:** **where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**

**One:** We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

**Many:** **where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

**One:** We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

**Many:** **where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

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

**HYMN** *Amazing Grace (see below)*

**TIME FOR CHILDREN** Rev. Maddie Foster

**SERMON**

*Reflection on John 4:16*  
*Reflection on Philippians 4:6-7*  
*Reflection on Matthew 25:31-40*

Dibby Moder  
John Baldwin  
Sue Cotton

**HYMN**

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee (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**

*Be Thou My Vision, Chilcot*

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
Be thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.*

*Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art;*

*Great heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
sull be thou my vision, be thou my vision, be thou my vision,  
O Ruler of All.*

## 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.**

## BLESSING

## SUNG BENEDICTION

*We will sing the same benediction throughout these Lenten Sundays. May this benediction be an invitation to reflect on your journey through this season. Each time you sing it, remember: you are a new person.*

**The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ by whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.  
So grant that we, like Christ, are true,  
consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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*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](mailto: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 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 following the service or email

**[RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org](mailto:RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org)**

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: February 25, 2024**

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**



### **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>**



### **Sabbatical Project: Lay Preachers Series**

While Rev. John is on sabbatical (until May 19), we'll be reconnecting to our ministry as a congregation through a series of sermons delivered by church members serving on our ministry teams: Prayer & Care (2/25), Christian Education (3/10), Environmental Ministries (3/17), Guatemala Partnership (4/14), Open & Affirming (4/28), and Outreach (5/12). These preaching teams will be working 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.



## It's Time for Another PERIOD PARTY – Next Sunday 3/3 @ Noon-1:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall

When you're living unhoused, there are so many questions to think about, so many needs to be met; but there's at least one we don't often consider: *"Where am I going to get the products I need to deal with my monthly period cleanly and safely?"* So we're partnering with Circle of Hope here in Needham to address this need. We're collecting pads, tampons, pantyliners, & hygiene wipes, all individually wrapped.

**TO DONATE, please use this link to our Amazon Wishlist:**

**[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lr/2H51FCQJONQ0D?ref=wl\\_s](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/lr/2H51FCQJONQ0D?ref=wl_s)** **[hare](#)** (This ensures we get exactly the products we need.)

To donate money to the effort, go to **[www.NeedhamUCC.org/Giving](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org/Giving)**, click on the PayPal link, and select "Period Party" from the dropdown menu; or you can write a check to the church with "Period Party" in the memo line. Then you're invited to our Period Party after worship on 3/3 to help repackage those donations into individual bags for distribution. We hope to be able to assemble 1000 kits, and many hands make light work.



## ***BEND: Lenten Devotional, 2024***

**Available in hard copy or PDF**

"How many of us could benefit – not from a hard yank but from a stretchy bend, not from stiffness but from resilience? Bending can be scary, of course. ... Who knows what our limits are? Who knows if we might crack and break? But bending can be a source of strength." (Molly Baskette, introduction to *Bend*) This devotional from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group offers a prayer practice to guide you through the season of Lent. Print and PDF copies will be available – please look for details on how to pick up or receive your copy in the Lent FOCUS.



## 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.*

## Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved and set me free!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

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## Just a Closer Walk With Thee

I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus is my plea:  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus is my plea:  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to they kingdom shore, they shore.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus is my plea:  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.