



**OPEN & AFFIRMING LAY PREACHING
4/28 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE
Connect @ www.NeedhamUCC.com**

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, *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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April 28, 2024: Fifth Sunday in Eastertide

PRELUDE

Prelude in C major by Johann Krebs

Valerie Becker, organ

WELCOME

Rev. Maddie Foster

CALL TO WORSHIP *Based on "Weave" by Rosemary Crow*

One: Weave, weave, weave us together

MANY: Weave us together in unity and love

One: We are many textures, many colors, each one different from the other

MANY: Weave us together in unity and love

One: We are different instruments playing our own melodies
But we are all playing in harmony.

MANY: Weave us together in unity and love.

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

HYMN

For All the Children (see below)

TIME FOR CHILDREN

SETTING THE SCENE *on Isaiah 43:1, 18-19 (NRSVUE)*

Kathie Carpenter

REMEMBERING OUR COVENANT

We believe that all people are created in the image of God, who loves each of us as we are. Following the example of Jesus, we welcome and affirm all people, including those of every age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; every racial, ethnic and cultural identity, and country of origin; every faith background, family configuration and economic situation; every mental and physical ability and health status; every life experience and circumstance.

We strive to be an example of God's extravagant welcome and to live these beliefs in our worship, language, actions and relationships. We invite all people who desire to join us in this journey of faith to share in the full life and ministry of this church.

REFLECTIONS

on Micah 6:8

Stephanie Oddleifson

on Zechariah 7:8-10 (NIV)

Cheryl Aglio-Girelli

on John 11:1-44 (paraphrased)

Barbra Morton

ANTHEM

Everything Possible Fred Small

Chancel Choir

You can find the words for today's anthem on the following page.

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.

HYMN

Ours the Journey *(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 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 support makes a difference.

You may notice we do not collect an offering during our worship service but there are multiple ways to give 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.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: April 28, 2024



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

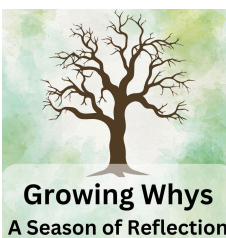
While Rev. John is on sabbatical (until May 19), we'll be reconnecting to our ministry as a congregation through a series of sermons delivered by church members serving on our ministry teams. **Upcoming dates: Open & Affirming (4/28), and Outreach (5/12).** These preaching teams will be working with 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.



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

For All the Children



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple To
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, That
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives Cut
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture When



raise our song a - bove, And we dare to claim the
 one day they be free; And we sing for gen - er -
 short by fear and shame So a - fraid of who they
 chil - dren far and wide, Can— live their lives with



pro - mise of Your love, _____ Though the
 a - tions yet to be, _____ That they
 are and whom they love. _____ May the
 dig - ni - ty and pride. _____ As they



day may not yet be here, We— trust it soon will
 nev - er have a rea - son To— doubt that they are
 mess - age now be ban - ished That Your love is for the
 grow in strength and sta - ture, May they join us hand in



be, When your chil - dren— will be free. _____
 blest. May they, in Your— love, find rest. _____
 few, May their faith in— You re - new. _____
 hand, As a - gainst all— hate we stand. _____

REFRAIN

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: "O, may our hearts and minds be o-pened, Fling the church doors o-pen wide. May there be room e-nough for ev-'ry-one in - side. For in God there is a wel-come, In God we all be-long. May that wel - come be our song." The score ends with a double bar line.

— O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, Fling the
church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for
ev - 'ry - one in - side. For in God there is a
wel - come, In God we all be - long. May that
wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman
Music: David Lohman

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Ours the Journey Words and Music by Julian Rush (1985, adapted 2024)

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

*[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.*

2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care? *Refrain*

3. Black, Latino, Asian Pacific Islander, Native, Indian, White,
We a rainbow coalition, all of value in your sight. *Refrain*

4. Through the years of human struggle, walk a people long-despised,
LGBTQ together, fighting to be realized. *Refrain*

5. As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams. *Refrain*


Coming Up in Worship

Lyrics to “Everything’s Possible” by Fred Small




**ABIDE
IN MY
LOVE**

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



OUTREACH

 OUTREACH LAY PREACHING
5/12 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE
Connect @ www.NeedhamUCC.com



THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE

 Acts 2:1-21 | Pentecost
5/19 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE
Connect @ www.NeedhamUCC.com

We have cleared off the table, the leftovers saved,
Washed the dishes and put them away
I have told you a story and tucked you in tight
At the end of your knockabout day
As the moon sets its sails to carry you to sleep
Over the midnight sea
I will sing you a song no one sang to me
May it keep you good company.
You can be anybody you want to be,
You can love whomever you will
You can travel any country where your heart leads
And know I will love you still
You can live by yourself, you can gather friends around,
You can choose one special one
And the only measure of your words and your deeds
Will be the love you leave behind when you're done.
There are girls who grow up strong and bold
There are boys quiet and kind
Some race on ahead, some follow behind
Some go in their own way and time
Some women love women, some men love men
Some raise children, some never do
You can dream all the day never reaching the end
Of everything possible for you.
Don't be rattled by names, by taunts, by games
But seek out spirits true
If you give your friends the best part of yourself
They will give the same back to you.
You can be anybody you want to be,
You can love whomever you will
You can travel any country where your heart leads
And know I will love you still
You can live by yourself, you can gather friends around,
You can choose one special one
And the only measure of your words and your deeds
Will be the love you leave behind when you're done.



BE

YOU!