



**OPEN & AFFIRMING LAY PREACHING  
4/28 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE  
Connect @ [www.NeedhamUCC.com](http://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](http://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*  
[revmaddie@needhamucc.org](mailto:revmaddie@needhamucc.org)  
[musicdirector@needhamucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@needhamucc.org)  
[office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org)  
[finance@needhamucc.org](mailto:finance@needhamucc.org)  
[moderator@needhamucc.org](mailto:moderator@needhamucc.org)  
[prc@needhamucc.org](mailto:prc@needhamucc.org)

**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](mailto:revmaddie@needhamucc.org)*

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### **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\*\*](mailto:RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org)

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### **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\*\*](http://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.

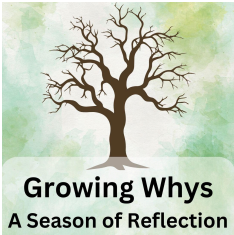


### **Needham UCC & Me: Our Local Church & Denomination**

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

## For All the Children

God, we gather as your people To  
raise our song above, And we dare to claim the  
promise of Your love,  
Though the day may not yet be here,  
We trust it soon will be,  
When your children will be free.

*Refrain:*

*O, may our hearts and minds be opened,  
Fling the church doors open wide.  
May there be room enough for everyone inside.  
For in God there is a welcome, In God we all belong.*

May that welcome be our song.  
Oh, we sing for all the children,  
That one day they be free;  
And we sing for generations yet to be,  
That they never have a reason  
To doubt that they are blest.  
May they, in Your Love, find rest. *Refrain*

Oh, we pray for all the young lives  
Cut short by fear and shame  
So afraid of who they are and whom they love.  
May the message now be banished  
That Your love is for the few,  
May their faith in You renew. *Refrain*

God, we're working for the future  
When children far and wide,  
Can live their lives with dignity and pride.  
As they grow in strength and stature,  
May they join us hand in hand,  
As against all hate we stand! *Refrain*

**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



**ABIDE  
IN MY  
LOVE**

 John 15:9-17 | Communion & Sixth Sunday of Easter  
**5/5 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE**  
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**OUTREACH**

 OUTREACH LAY PREACHING  
**5/12 @ 10AM, LIVE ON-SITE & ONLINE**  
Connect @ [www.NeedhamUCC.com](http://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](http://www.NeedhamUCC.com)

## Lyrics to “Everything’s Possible” by Fred Small

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!**