

FRACTAL I TH



Ephesians 3:14-21

7/28 @ 10am, LIVE! on-site & online
Connect at www.NeedhamUCC.org

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

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Welcome! *No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited and welcome here at The Congregational Church of Needham, United Church of Christ.*

Please take a moment to let us know you're here, whether you are an official church member, a frequent guest, or a first-timer. **Scan this QR code with the camera on your phone and follow the link to sign-in.** *There's also a paper sign-in sheet on the table in the foyer, if you prefer.*

July 28, 2024

God speaks to each of us as he makes us, / then walks with us silently out of the night. / These are the words we dimly hear: / You, sent out beyond your recall, / go the limits of your longing. / Embody me. / Flare up like a flame / and make big shadows I can move in. / Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. / Just keep going. No feeling is final. / Don't let yourself lose me. / Nearby is the country they call life. / You will know it by its seriousness. / Give me your hand.

–Rainer Maria Rilke (trans. Joanna Macy), “Go to the Limits of your Longing: Book of Hours, I 59” from *Book of Hours: Love Poems to God* (1905)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Rev. John MacIver Gage

CENTERING SONG *Gathered Here*

Gathered here in the mystery of this hours, gathered here in one strong body, gathered here in the struggle and the power, Spirit draw near.

CALL TO WORSHIP

by Padraig O'Tuama

One: Turning to the day and to each other,
Many: we open ourselves to the day and to each other.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made
Many: and a day we'll have to make our way through.

One: Whether with ease or pain, with patience or joy,
Many: may we find opportunities for generosity toward others and ourselves.

One: May we find moments of encounter, even in isolation.
Many: May we find stories and memories, even in the most complicated corners.

One: May we start again where we have failed again.
Many: May we confess and be confessed to.

One: Because this is a way of living that's worth living daily.

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

HYMN *Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race (see below)*

TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN Rev. Maddie Foster

READING FROM SCRIPTURE *from the Letters of the Early Church*
Ephesians 3:14-21

SERMON "Fractal Faith"
Rev. John MacIver Gage

HYMN *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace (see below)*

SHARING OUR PRAYERS Response: "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

Three-Voice Fugue

by Josep Castanyer Alonso

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

SINGING OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

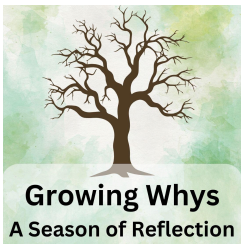
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

WE ARE BLESSED AND SENT FORTH

POSTLUDE

CHURCH ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS: July 28, 2024



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.*



Mindful Meditation Online

Sundays @ 8pm LIVE! via Zoom at

<https://us06web.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.



Rev. Maddie Foster preaching

Good Bones

8/4 @ 10am, EDT LIVE! on-site & online via Zoom

Bones don't have a good reputation. Bones can be brittle, dry, and breakable. The prophet sees the valley of bones in a vision and asks, "Can these bones live?" and maybe he's already passed the same judgement in his mind. But God shows that these

bones aren't yet dust - these are good, strong bones - and in fact they have a purpose. These bones can be built up into something straight from God's imagination. We, too, dare to be creative, to imagine the future of the Church, and proclaim that, indeed, God is doing something brand new with these good bones.



Growing Whys Together: Why Do We Do What We Do?

**Lay Preaching Series: Outreach, ft. Diana Conroy
8/11 @ 10am, EDT LIVE! on-site & online via Zoom**

Diana Conroy didn't get to preach her sermon about her participation with the Outreach Committee of our Church last spring because she injured her foot the morning of. But she's agreed to get right back on that horse! Come here Diana talk about the work of the Outreach Committee and why she is a part of it, as a person of faith.

Diverse in Nation, Culture, Race

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.
God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for power that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread, where all
find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
Let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.

In dwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;
let ev'ry life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.