

Forgive Often

Matthew 6:12



"Be the Church" Series, #3-9

10/2 @ 10am, LIVE! On-Site & Online
Connect at www.NeedhamUCC.org

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

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Rev. John Gage, *senior minister*

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

Valerie Becker, *director of music*

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PRELUDE *Trumpet Tune, “The Cebell” by H. Purcell*
Valerie Becker, *organ*

WELCOME Rev. John MacIver Gage & Rev. Maddie Foster

CALL TO WORSHIP *inspired by Psalm 130:1-4*

One: For the swirling depths of life we cry out to you, O God,
Many: trusting, hoping, praying that you will hear us.

One: If your kindness depended on our worthiness,
Many: we could not win.

One: But you don’t just forgive, and freely; you *are*
forgiveness.

Many: Such love is too wonderful for us not to worship

One: and it calls for a response:

**Many: Help us become a community shaped by the sharing
of that same amazing grace we have received,**

One: in the name of Jesus who shared his last meal with his
betrayers

**Many: and looked on his killers from the cross and offered
them forgiveness.**

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

HYMN *Break Not the Circle of Enabling Love (see below)*

TIME WITH CHILDREN Rev. Maddie Foster

SCRIPTURE *from the Gospels, Matthew 6:12*

SERMON “Be the Church: Forgive Often”
Rev. Nikira Hernandez

HYMN *God, How Can We Forgive (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 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

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy
arr. Karen Marroli, Chancel Choir

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea

There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty

*There is no place where earth’s sorrows
are more felt than up in heav’n*

*There is no place where earth’s failings
have such kindly judgment given*

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind

If our love were but more faithful, we would rest upon God’s Word

And our lives reflect Thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord

HOLY COMMUNION

*(together, using whatever food & drink you have on hand if
participating online)*

OPPORTUNITIES TO BE PART OF THE GOOD NEWS

SINGING OUR THANKS & 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!**

CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ABOUT COMMUNION

For our celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion / The Eucharist / The Lord's Supper today, those present in the sanctuary who wish to partake will be invited to come forward down the center aisle to receive a piece of gluten-free bread from a Deacon (who will be masked) and take for themselves a serving of juice (pre-set in a compostable cup). As always, all bread is gluten-free and all juice is non-alcoholic and **ALL ARE INVITED**. You do not need to be a member of this congregation or any congregation, but simply desire to receive this blessing in your life. Come, friends, taste and see the goodness of God!



Ride... Walk... *Whatever* for Food: THIS SUNDAY, 10/2

For the seventh consecutive year, our church is sponsoring a team in the *Ride for Food* in support of the Needham Community Council Food Pantry and the 260 Needham families who rely on the pantry each month and it's **not too late to participate**. **To donate directly**, go to www.NeedhamUCC.org, scroll down and click on the PayPal button, and choose “Ride for Food” from the drop-down menu. **To participate as part of our church team** in whatever way the Spirit moves you, go to

www.threesquaresne.org/team/440281. There's lots more information available at www.threesquaresne.org/ride-for-food.



Trunk-or-Treat, Coming Up Soon: Saturday, 10/22 @ 2-4pm

Come help us give kids in our community some not-so-scary Halloween fun. For the fourth year in a row, we're asking you to bring your car, decorate it, and then hand out treats to hundreds of kids and their families trunk-or-treating around our parking lot. Go to [Sign-Up Genius](#) now to sign up to volunteer.



Church Budget & Finances Update: Sunday, 10/16 @ 11:11am

The Finance Team invites you to stay after worship on 10/16 for our annual update on the church budget & finances; in particular, we'll hear how we're doing on our multi-year plan to reduce our dependence on our endowment and move the church to a healthier and more sustainable financial footing.

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE: Our operations manager, Diane Dana, has left the church's employ. While we work to fill this position, our longtime financial administrator, Cindy Sullivan will assist us by picking up some extra hours. That being said, the office will be open reduced hours in the interim: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays @ 8am-2pm and Thursdays @ 8am-12noon. *As always, it's best to email or call ahead if you need to come by.*

- Rev. John MacIver Gage will be out of the office from Saturday, 10/1 through Saturday, 10/8. If you have a pastoral *emergency*, please contact Rev. Maddie Foster.

Break Not the Circle of Enabling Love

Break not the circle of enabling love,
where people grow, forgiven and forgiving;
break not that circle, make it wider still,
till it includes, embraces all the living.

Come, wonder at this love that comes to life,
whose words of freedom are with humor spoken,
and people keep no score of wrong and guilt,
but will that human bonds remain unbroken.

Come, wonder at the Lord who came and comes
to teach the world the craft of hopeful craving
for peace and wholeness that will fill the earth;
he calls his people to creative living.

Join then the movement of the love that frees,
till people of whatever race of nation
will truly be themselves, stand on their feet,
see eye to eye with laughter and elation.

Text: F. Kaan (1975); Tune: ROBERT (Tucker)

God, How Can We Forgive

God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn?
How can we rise and start anew, our trust reborn?
When human loving fails and ev'ry hope is gone,
Your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.

When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,
How can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?
The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.
Our priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.
As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

Text: Ruth C. Duck (1996); Tune: LEONI