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*	revjohn@needhamucc.org
Valerie Becker, *director of music*	musicdirector@needhamucc.org
Darlene Wong, *director for children & youth*	childrenandyouth@needhamucc.org
Robin Bevilacqua, *church operations manager*	office@needhamucc.org
Cindy Sullivan, *financial administrator*	finance@needhamucc.org
Tom Mollerus, *moderator*	moderator@needhamucc.org
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee	prc@needhamucc.org

Welcome! 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 a paper sign-in sheet in the foyer, if you prefer.*

Our Church Covenant *At the Congregational Church of Needham, United Church of Christ, we strive to be a joyful, welcoming Christian Community. We seek to be faithful in a world torn by suffering, injustice, oppression, and war. We are inspired by God, Christ's Ministry, and the examples of other faithful people. We join together in worship and song, fellowship, study, and mission to embrace the risks and challenges of continuing Christ's ministry. We struggle to live out our faith in the world by furthering justice and peace, witnessing to the truth, and proclaiming God's love and mercy for all people.*

Our Open and Affirming 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.*

If you are a guest with us today, a special welcome to you! We'd love to know that you're here. Please sign in using the QR code at the top of this page or the physical attendance sheet in the lobby. If you'd like to learn more about our church or what it means to be a member here, please reach out to Rev. John at **revjohn@needhamucc.org**.

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship! Quiet books and **pew pals** (soft toys) are available in the narthex/foyer just outside the sanctuary doors. All accessible bathrooms have **changing tables**.

WIFI in the sanctuary: **UCC_Guest**, password: **needhamucc**

FOR TODAY:

Yes! There is Sunday school today. Kids of all ages will be invited to come forward for the "Time Especially for Children" during worship, then head out to Sunday School in the Reception Room (in the hall just outside this sanctuary) with our Director for Children & Youth, Darlene Wong, and their volunteer teachers. Register your child for Sunday School at the following link: **https://forms.gle/CrFjkczrLcH3hXwcA**

Baby Basics Groceries Ongoing Food Collection

Every Sunday we collect specific proteins for the groceries we give to the families accessing diapers through Baby Basics every other month. In October we're asking for **large cans of chicken.**

November 1, 2026: All Saints Day

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need. She makes me lie down in green meadows. Beside still waters, She will lead. She restores my soul. She rights my wrongs. She leads me in a path of good things and fills my heart with songs. Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land, there is nothing that can shake me. She has said She won't forsake me. I'm in Her hand. She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes. She anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows. Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will live in Her house forever, forever and ever. Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

– "The 23rd Psalm," paraphrase by Bobby McFerrin

PRELUDE *Andante Moderator,* J. Brahms Valerie Becker, *organist*

WELCOME Rev. John MacIver Gage

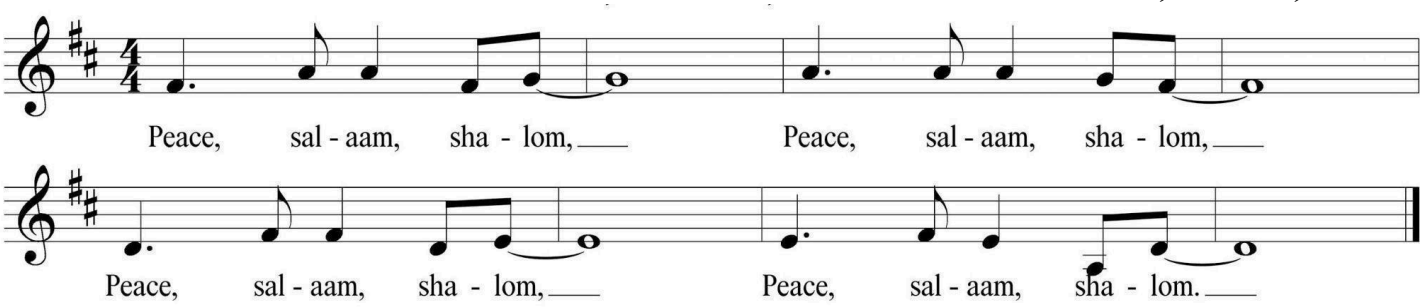
CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, friends, a great cloud of witnesses surrounds us even now as we gather.
Many: May the lingering echo of lives made holy in humanity resound in our songs.
One: May their stories open a space in our stories for the Spirit to enter us afresh.
Many: In remembering them, may we find ourselves re-membered with them, and with one another, and with God.
One: May the God of every day hold the threads of our lives together and weave us anew for this day.
Many: Even in grieving, may a new and living hope rise in our lives and the life of the world.
All*: *Let us worship God together in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed.

HYMN ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** *(see below)*

SHARING PEACE ("Peace be with you / **And also with you"**)

SUNG RESPONSE ***Peace, Salaam, Shalom,***



READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE *from the Gospels,* John 11:17-44

TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

SERMON *Love Doesn't End Where Loss Begins* Rada Ruggles

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO'VE DIED

ANTHEM *How lovely is thy dwelling place,* from *Requiem* by J. Brahma Chancel Choir

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth for the courts of the Lord.
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.
O blest are they that dwell in thy house: they praise thy name evermore,

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.

INVITATION TO DEEPER RELATIONSHIP

Feeling like you might like to make this congregation your church home? Curious to learn more about who we are and how we practice our faith and what membership means here? Reach out to Rev. John at **revjohn@needhamucc.org**

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

HYMN ***God of the Living, in Whose Eyes*** *(see below)*

WE ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

POSTLUDE

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED: November 1, 2026

Children & Youth Ministries

Register your child for Sunday School at the following link:
https://forms.gle/CrFjkczrLcH3hXwcA

Sign up to help with Sunday School: Every Sunday we need at least one volunteer from the congregation to help lead Sunday school. (Our Safe Church Policy–and our love for our kids–requires that we always have two unrelated adults in the classroom.) Will you help us share God's love with the youngest among us? **Sign up at this link:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ONwEBXFjwykTz8QU58rgAflm4QTkNziHytxxi-E5Qa8/edit?usp=sharing

About Our Guest Preacher: **Rada Ruggles** (They/Them) is a Member in Discernment (M.I.D.), that is, someone working with the Committee on Ministerial Formation in the local Metropolitan Boston Association of our United Church of Christ denominational family to discern a call to ordained minister. They are a member of and are sponsored by Eliot Church of Newton, UCC. A graduate of Boston University School of Theology (M.Div.), they ground their ministry in trauma-informed care, God's expansive and extravagant welcome, and the vision of beloved community. They bring this theology to preaching, pastoral care, and congregational life, inviting all to encounter each other as they move forward towards Christ.

Church Family Cemetery Walk

11/1 @ 11:15am, *from the church to Needham Cemetery*

Families with young kids and everyone else are invited to join in this easy walk to and around the Needham Cemetery. We'll visit the graves of beloved members of our church and others and hear stories from those who hold their memories dear. We hope this will help remind us that death is an expected part of life and God holds us as close and lovingly in death as throughout our lives.

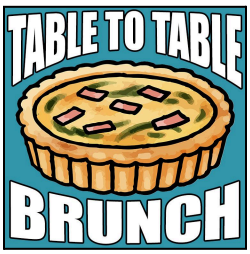


Table to Table Brunch

NEXT SUNDAY, 11/8 @ 11:15am, *in the fellowship hall*

Join us for this no-reservation-necessary time for delicious food and fellowship. Maybe try sitting with someone different this Sunday.

Stewardship 2027: *There Our Hearts Will Be*

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

—Matthew 6:21

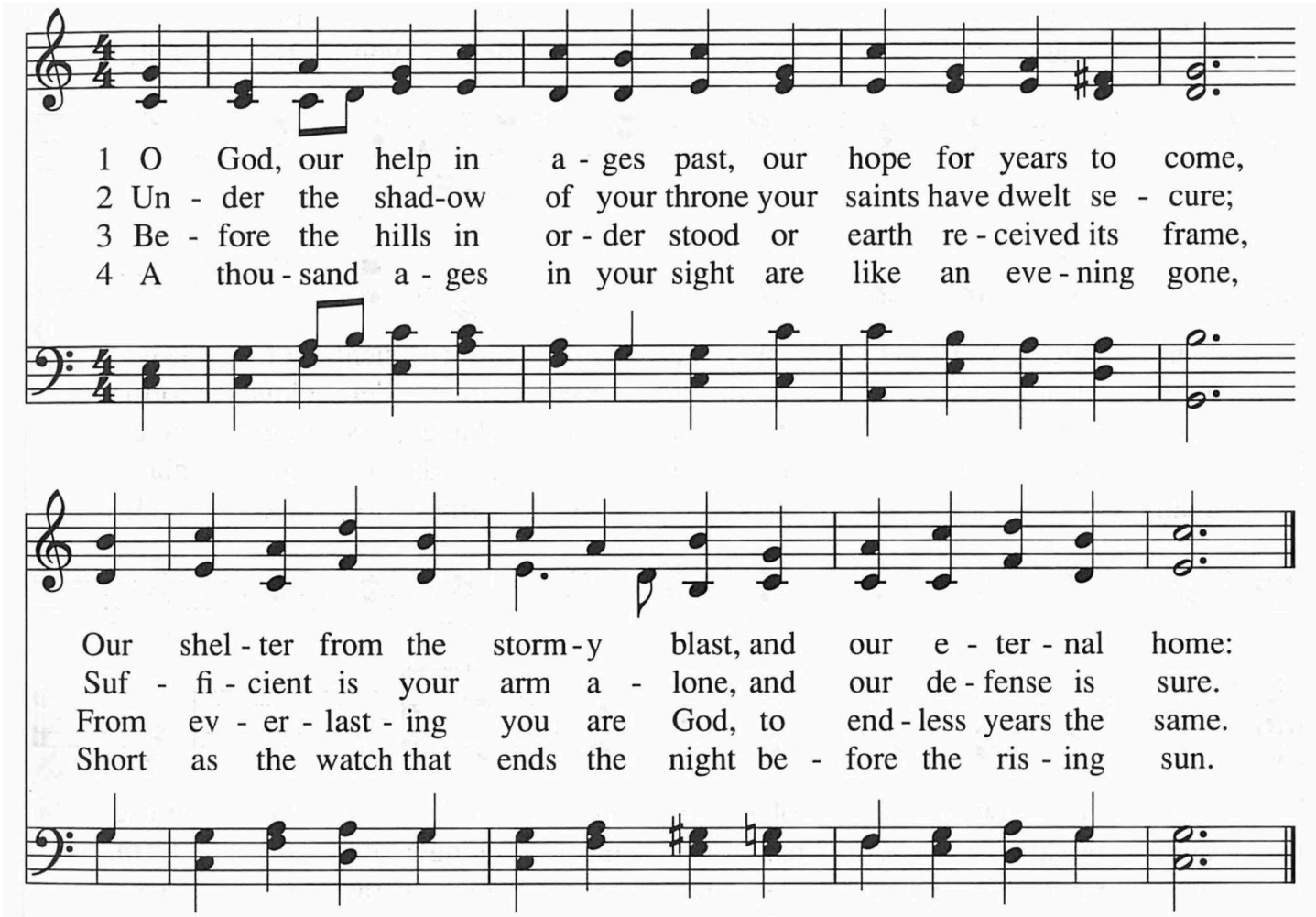
This year's theme is *There Our Hearts Will Be* and invites us into an honest, hopeful exploration of how our practices, priorities, and resources reveal what truly claims our hearts. As a church, we have invested significant financial resources the past few years in such meaningful areas as:

- **environmental stewardship:** our new solar panels,
- **better access for all: our** new elevator,
- **a better welcome for all:** our new individual gender-neutral bathrooms, and
- **the youngest among us:** our new Director for Children and Youth.

All of these as well as our wonderful community-building, outreach activities, justice work, music, day-to-day operations, and so much more are made possible by our pledges which are our major source of funding. Stewardship letters will go out shortly, and there are lots of ways to make your pledge:

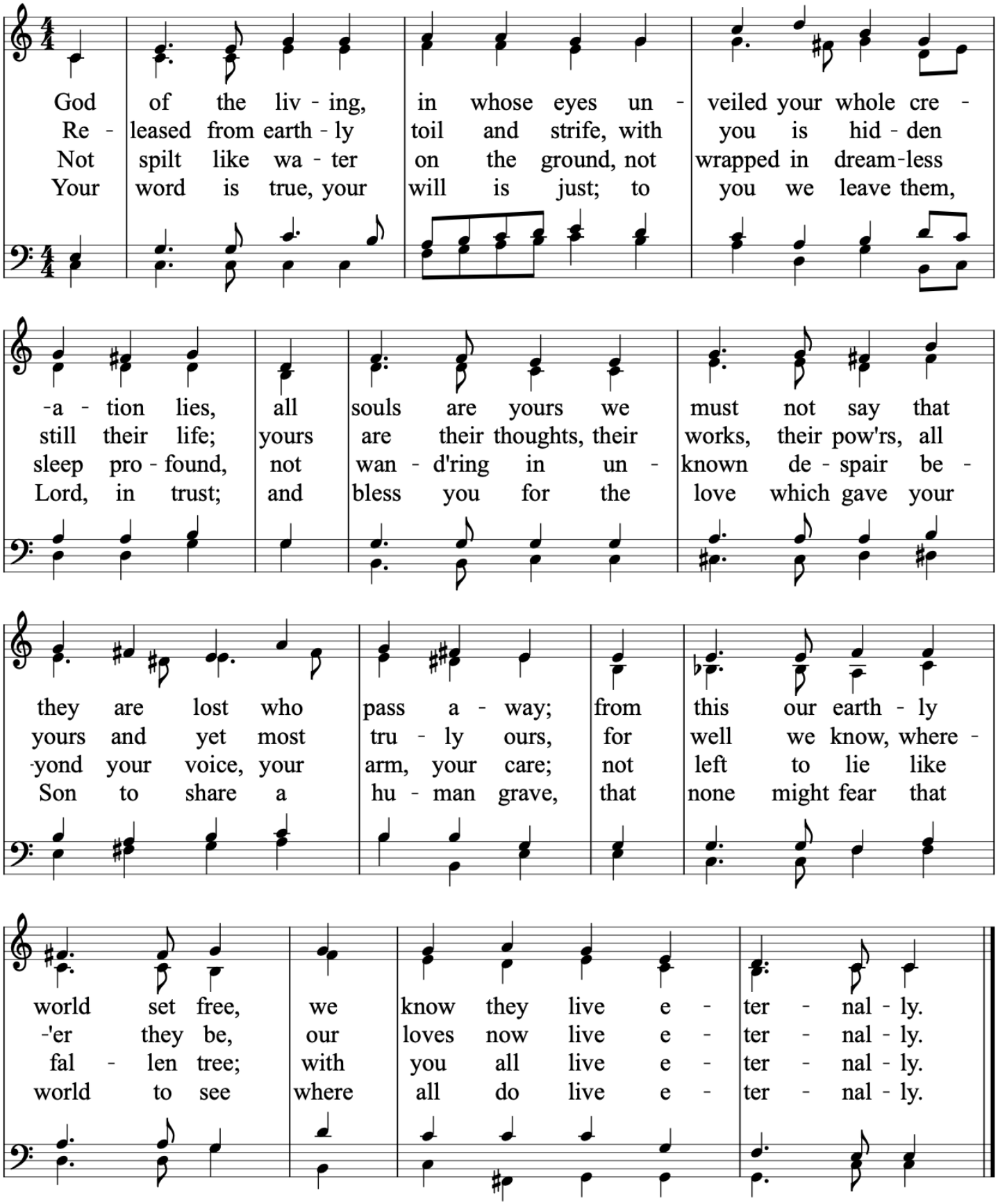
- **Pledge online** at **www.needhamucc.org/giving/pledging**
- **Paper pledge cards** will be on the table in the sanctuary foyer.You can fill them out and drop them in the black drop box on the church office door.
- Pledge via stock transfer gift of stock. (For more info, contact our Financial Administrator, Cindy Sullivan at **finance@needhamucc.org**)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pening day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

God of the Living, in Whose Eyes

Text: J. Ellerton (19th C), alt.; Tune: MELITA