

Year W Listening to voices of women, girls, & the divine feminine in the Bible



Isaiah 62:1-7, 10-12; Matthew 3:13-17

1/15 @ 10am, LIVE! On-Site & Online
Connect at www.NeedhamUCC.org

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

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

Valerie Becker, *director of music*

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January 15, 2023 – Baptism of Jesus Sunday

PRELUDE

Voluntary II by J. Alcock

Valerie Becker, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

inspired by Matthew 3:1-17

One: In those days, the prophet John appeared in the wilderness, as wild as all that, wearing rough clothes and eating strange food, proclaiming a wild word from God:

Many: “Come out, come out, wherever you are, and make up your mind to be changed, for God’s way is made plain. God’s realm appears on the horizon.”

One: And many left behind their lives in the cities and towns to seek new life with John in the waters of the Jordan, where they let go of the dust that clung to them and were washed clean.

Many: Even so, John was clear: “What I offer is only a taste of what God can do, will do, is doing already. I baptize you with water, but before God is done, the whole world will be alight with the fire of the Spirit.

One: Then Jesus, too, came to the Jordan, and John resisted. But true to his calling, Jesus put himself into John’s hands and took the plunge with all the rest.

Many: And when he did, it was as if the world broke and everything was illuminated. Jesus felt the wingtips of the Spirit brush his face, her voice in his ear, saying:

One: “You are God’s child. You are God’s own. You are God’s beloved.”

Many: And you... and you... and you... all of you, and all of us.

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

HYMN

Wonder of Wonders Here Revealed (see below)

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Maddie Foster

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

from the Hebrew Prophets, Isaiah 62:1-7, 10-12

SERMON

“Deep Dive”

Rev. John MacIver Gage

HYMN

How Firm a Foundation (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/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

Romance in a minor by Clara Schumann

Valerie Becker, *piano*

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

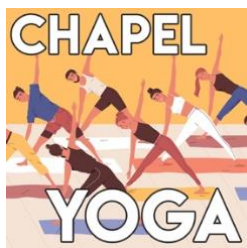
SINGING OUR THANKS & PRAISE

**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

NOTE FROM THE OFFICE: While we work to fill the vacant church office manager position, our longtime financial administrator, Cindy Sullivan will assist us by picking up some extra hours. 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.*



Chapel Yoga THURS @ 9am through 2/23

One of the best things any of us can do for our physical, mental, and spiritual health is find ways to reaffirm the living connection between our body, mind, and soul. And yoga is a great way to do that. Our own **Carol Oberle, a trained yoga instructor**, will help us kick off the new year leading a **50m yoga class for 8 weeks on Thursdays @ 9am in the chapel**. This beautiful space we now share with the Charles River Ballet is perfect for yoga with the gorgeous winter light pouring in.

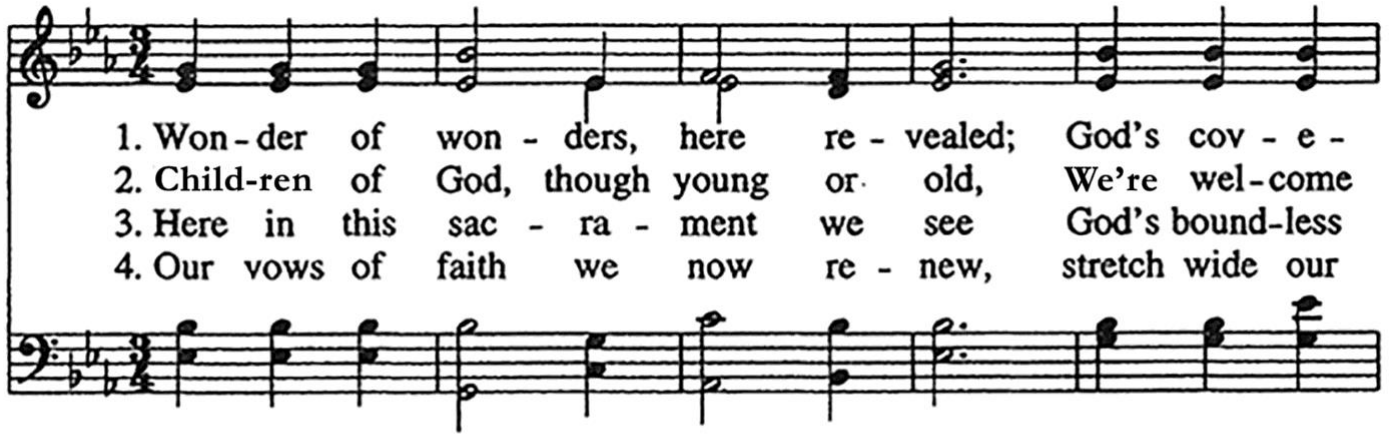
This class is free to church members and their guests. *Participants will need bring a yoga mat and be prepared to leave your shoes and water bottles in the hallway before entering.*

WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

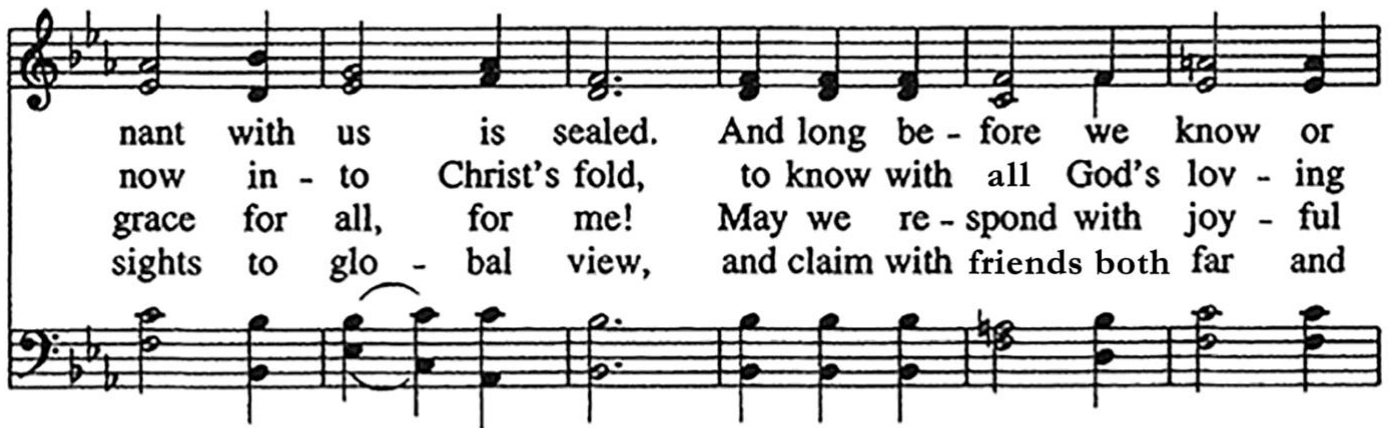
to be held after worship on Sunday, January 29, 2023

- Article I: To receive and act upon the reports of the standing committees, special committees, and officers of the church.
- Article II: To elect Officers and Committees for the Church year 2023.
- Article III: To amend the Bylaws with regard to regional UCC affiliation, number of Deacons, a temporary Moderator, and the audit or review of the church's operating account.
- Article IV: To adopt a budget for fiscal year 2023.

Wonder of Wonders Here Revealed



1. Won - der of won - ders, here re - vealed; God's cov - e -
2. Child - ren of God, though young or - old, We're wel - come
3. Here in this sac - ra - ment we see God's bound - less
4. Our vows of faith we now re - new, stretch wide our



nant with us is sealed. And long be - fore we know or
now in - to Christ's fold, to know with all God's lov - ing
grace for all, for me! May we re - spond with joy - ful
sights to glo - bal view, and claim with friends both far and



pray, God's love en - folds us ev - ery day.
care; here all our joys and sor - rows share.
praise in lov - ing serv - ice all our days.
near a larg - er kin - ship held most dear.

How Firm a Foundation

How_ firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
"Fear_ not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,
"When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
"The_ soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose,

is_ laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!
for_ I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
the_ riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;
I_ will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can be said than to you, God hath said,
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to_ you who for re - fuge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
and_ sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
I'll_ nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake.