

HARD Times



4th Sunday in Lent Mark 13:14-22

3/19 @ 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*

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March 19, 2023

PRELUDE

Prelude in F major by J. Krebbs
Valerie Becker, *organ*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96, trans. Wilda C. Gafney

One: Sing to the EXALTED a new song; sing to the CREATOR, all the earth.

Many: Sing to the MOST HIGH, bless her name; proclaim from day to day her salvation.

One: Declare among the nations her glory, among all the peoples, her marvelous works.

Many: For great is the AGELESS GOD, and greatly to be praised; revered is she above all Gods.

One: For all the gods of the peoples are idols, yet the WOMB OF LIFE made the heavens.

Many: Splendor and majesty are before her; strength and beauty are in her sanctuary.

One: Give to the MAJESTIC ONE, you families of the people, give to the MIGHTY ONE glory and strength.

Many: Give to the FIRE OF SINAI the glory due her name; bring an offering and come into her courts.

One: Bow down and worship the SOVEREIGN ONE in majestic holiness; tremble in her presence, all the earth.

Many: Say among the nations, "The EVER-LIVING GOD reigns! Indeed, the world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. God will judge the peoples with equity."

One: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, along with what fills it.

Many: Let the fields exult, and all that is in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the WISDOM OF THE AGES;

One: For she is coming, for she is coming to judge the earth. She will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with her truth.

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

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Maddie Foster

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

from the Gospels

Mark 13:14-22

SERMON

“Hard Times”

Rev. John MacIver Gage

MUSICAL OFFERING

Hard Times, Come Again No More

by S. Foster (1854), performed by Emmylou Harris

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 kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies’ Sake by R. Farrant
Chancel Choir

*Lord, for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives,
to decline from sin and incline to virtue,
that we may walk with a perfect heart
before thee now and evermore;*

PARTNERING IN THE GOOD NEWS

SINGING OUR THANKS & PRAISE

O God, Our Hope in Ages Past (see below)

BLESSING

POSTLUDE



It's Time for Another PERIOD PARTY

TODAY @ Noon-1:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall

When you're living unhoused, there are so many questions to think about, so many needs to be met; but there's at least one we don't often consider: *"Where am I going to get the products I need to deal with my monthly period cleanly and safely?"* So we're partnering with Circle of Hope here in Needham to address this need. We're collecting pads, tampons, pantyliners, & hygiene wipes, all individually wrapped. After worship today @ Noon (so neighbors not from our church can join us) we'll gather in the fellowship hall to repackage these donations in reusable bags for distribution. We hope to be able to assemble 1000 kits, and many hands make light work.



A Get-to-Know-You Event: Who Are We UCC? **Sunday, 3/26 @ 11:11am after worship**

Our United Church of Christ denominational family is an odd one. First, we're old... and new. The modern denomination was formed in 1957, but our roots stretch back 400 years, particularly in New England. Secondly, we're a congregational church, which centers the autonomy of local congregations, but we also believe we're bound together in covenant relationship, all our congregations together. And while "our faith is more than 2000 years old, our thinking is not." We believe God calls us not just to preserve a history but lean into a more just world for all and act on that conviction. **In this gathering for new and longtime members and friends of the church, we'll talk about who we are, what we believe, and how we believe it.**

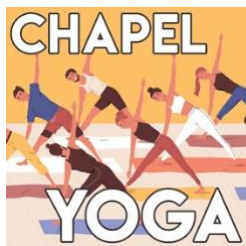


Just-4-Fun Egg Hunt! **Saturday, 4/1 @ 10am (Sensory-Friendly Hunt @ 9:15am)**

Families from all over our community are invited to join our annual (non-religious) egg hunt on Saturday, 4/1. Come for candy-filled eggs, laughter, music, a photo booth, and more at 10am. We also have a sensory-friendly offering (no music, smaller group at a slower pace) at 9:15am.

We need volunteers! Help with set-up (beginning at 8:30 AM), the event itself, and clean-up is needed. We especially need folks to lift and move play structures from our playground to the front yard, someone to take photos at our photo booth, and folks to help welcome kids and their families. **Email Rev. Maddie to sign up: RevMaddie@NeedhamUCC.org. Donate to our egg hunt on our [Amazon wish list](#)!** Or donate beginning this Sunday by

dropping your nut-free candy off in the foyer. Please ensure delivery dates are before 3/23. **Youth:** Come to Youth Group (during worship) on 3/19 & 3/26 to stuff Easter Eggs!



Chapel Yoga THURS @ 9am

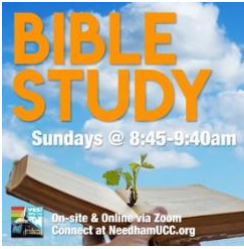
One of the best things any of us can do for our physical, mental, and spiritual health is find ways to reaffirm the living connection between our body, mind, and soul. And yoga is a great way to do that. Our own **Carol Oberle, a trained yoga instructor**, is leading this **50m yoga on Thursdays @ 9am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



Mindful Meditation ONLINE Sundays @ 7pm LIVE! via Zoom

at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88272388482>

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.



NEW! Bible Study

Sundays @ 8:45-9:40am

On-site in the Reception Room at church & online via Zoom @ <http://zoom.us/j/907548568>

Our current Year W project, listening for the voices of women, girls, and the divine feminine in the scriptures is the perfect opportunity/excuse to do some Bible study together. Join us to reflect together on each Sunday's Bible passages for preaching, listening for what tradition, scholarship, and the insight of the Spirit has to say to us today.



We've Simplified Worship Volunteer Sign-Ups (we hope!)

More than just the ministers, it takes a whole group of volunteers to make our worship happen each Sunday.

To make it happen smoothly, we need:

1 x Tech Desker (to run tech for worship)

1 x Zoom Greeter (to welcome people online)

2 x On-Site Greeters (to also help with coffee hour set-up)

And now we have one link where you can sign up for all of these! [Simply click here](#) and type your name and email address in the appropriate blank. *If you have questions about any particular task, email Rev. John [here](#).* Thank you for your generosity with your time and energy to help shoulder the responsibility and joy of hosting worship for our congregation and community!

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!