

Order of Worship for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020 @ 4pm

The Congregational Church of Needham

United Church of Christ

www.NeedhamUCC.org

GATHERING MUSIC

What Child is This?

Stephanie Oddleifson, Ellen Dunlavey, & Julia Dunlavey; Cici Hunt, *piano*

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Rev. John MacIver Gage

The Rev. Maddie Foster

CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain

led by Gretchen Lanka Allen, Mahala Clivaz, Sienna Clivaz, Laura Felice

REFRAIN:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (REFRAIN)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo' above the earth

Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior's birth. (REFRAIN)

Down in a lowly stable the humble Christ was born

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (REFRAIN)

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY

Sue Cotton, The Montzka-Marinilli Family, Jim Ruetenik, Kristi Keating

Gabriel's Message

Pageant Choir; Cici Hunt, *piano*

MARY & JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM

CAROL

The First Noel

led by The George Family; Valerie Becker, *organ*

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

REFRAIN:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born in a manger, Emmanuel.

**They looked above and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (REFRAIN)**

**And by the light of that same star three sages came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (REFRAIN)**

MARY & JOSEPH LOOK FOR AN INN

Kristi & Brian Keating, The Hurley Family,
The Mora Family, The Carter Family

Is There Room?

Kirby Salerno; Cici Hunt, *piano*

MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS

Taylor Williams, Eliza Williams, Margot Dies, Graeme Dies,
Logan Kennedy, Audrey Cronin

The Friendly Beasts

Pageant Choir; Cici Hunt, *piano*

ANGELS VISIT THE SHEPHERDS

Jamie Turner, Julie Roden, Zack Biller, Samantha Biller,
Leyna Blume, Kiersten Blume, Piper Blume, Diana Conroy

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

led by The Blume Family; Becker, *organ*

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, God, our world now entering.
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

THE MAGI'S JOURNEY

The Salerno Family, Maeve Conroy

We Three Kings

Miles, Liam, & Kirby Salerno; Cici Hunt, *piano*

**REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

MEDITATION

The Rev. John MacIver Gage

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Led by Jordanna, Lucie, & Sebastian Mora; Valerie Becker, *organ*

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from sky and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care and fit us forever to live with thee there.**

SHARING THE LIGHT

CAROL

Silent Night

led by Katherine Rock; Valerie Becker, *organ*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight: glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Child of God, love's pure light, radiant, beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Christ, at thy birth, Jesus, Christ, at thy birth!**

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Maddie Foster

You are invited to join us for worship in this same online space tomorrow morning and Sunday @ 10am.



Pajamas Encouraged!

**Christmas Morning Kitchen Table Worship
with Christmas Cookie Communion!
Friday, 12/25 @ 10am (~30m)**

This year we have an opportunity to bring our celebration of Christmas home in a special way. You are invited to share a brief, joyful, and informal worship service for Christmas morning live from your own kitchen table, pajamas strongly encouraged (though not mandatory, of course). So clear away the wrapping paper and the dishes and let's take a moment (about 30 minutes) to center ourselves in the love of God that is the real reason for this and every season.

We'll be sharing communion together, remembering the sweetness of God's gift of love in Jesus, so make sure to save a Christmas cookie or two for worship!

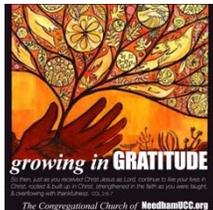


Three French Hens Sunday!
**Worship in Christmastide
Sunday, 12/27 @ 10am**

The good news of Christmas is too small to be confined to just one day or just one congregation. This Sunday we'll continue the story of the birth of Jesus with using elements provided us as a gift by leaders here in the Southern New England Conference of our United Church of Christ denominational family. We'll also join in online worship with members of Brighton Allston Congregational Church and their pastor, Rev. Nikira Hernandez-Evans.

Events, Events, Fellowship and Mission

Watch Our Online Christmas Concert Any Time! - Valerie Becker, our music director, has compiled a video reprise of some of the “greatest hits” of our Chancel Choir and Friendly Chimers from Christmas concerts past into an online Christmas concert to enrich our holiday season. The concert appears on our church YouTube channel (“Congregational Church of Needham”) and is available to watch any time! Direct connection info is available on our website at www.NeedhamUCC.org.

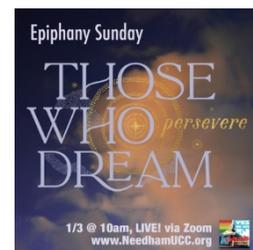


growing in GRATITUDE - Stewardship 2020 "Gratitude runs completely counter to the 'never-enough' culture of the world around us. It asks us to give thanks for everything in our lives, good or bad, that has brought us to the present moment; to receive this moment, with all its blessings and challenges, as a gift; and to look to the future with hope and commitment. With all that is happening in the world, this has definitely been a year for lots of gratitude practice." Please consider how you can generously support our church and work together from

a place of generosity this year. Fill out a pledge form at www.NeedhamUCC.org/Giving

Arise! Shine! Epiphany Celebration - Sunday, 1/3 @ 10am LIVE! via Zoom

The holiday season comes to a close with the arrival of the *magi* and the opening up, the *shining-forth* (that's what *epiphany* means) of God's love, justice, and peace not just for any one people but for all people, for the entire world. Our worship will include sharing the gift of "star words" once again to help us realize our giftedness and put our gifts to work in the year ahead. Join us **Sunday, 1/3 @ 10am LIVE! via Zoom** at our usual worship link at <http://zoom.us/j/907548568>



SAVE THE DATE

January 10, 2021

Please attend a special forum on Sunday, January 10 immediately following worship where the Finance Team will present streamlined budget scenarios and the Board will listen to your ideas and comments. Input from our members is essential in making these difficult decisions that will put the church on a path to a healthy and sustainable future.

Annual Hearing - January 24, 2021

Annual Meeting January 31, 2021

Soon after the forum the Finance Team and the Board will finalize the proposed budget for 2021, and that proposed budget will be presented at the **Hearing on January 24** at 11 am. The vote on the budget will be held during the **Annual Meeting on January 31** at 11 am. All of these events will be held on Zoom. We encourage those who are not online to call the Zoom phone numbers.

NOTE: The church office staff will be on holiday break from 12/24-1/4