



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 29, 2020 @ 10am  
The Congregational Church of Needham (MA),  
*United Church of Christ*  
www.NeedhamUCC.org

### “Those Who Dream: Keep Awake”

**PRELUDE**      *Fuga V in D Maj* from “*The Well Tempered Clavier – Book 1*” by J.S. Bach      Soomi Lee

**WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**      Julie Roden, Zach & Samantha

I dream of soccer fields.  
*I dream of a big bowl of mac’n’cheese.*  
I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.  
*I dream of snow days.*  
I dream of empty beds in jail cells.  
*I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.*  
I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.  
*I dream of schools with enough money to teach.*  
I dream of parents with enough money to feed their families.  
*I dream to keep awake, because if we don’t dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.*  
So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.  
*May this light be an invitation to keep awake.*  
May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream.  
*Let us pray...*

**HYMN**      “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” (see below)

**TIME ESPECIALLY WITH CHILDREN**      The Rev. Maddie Foster

**READING FROM SCRIPTURE**      *from the Prophets, Isaiah 64:1-9*

**SERMON**      The Rev. John MacIver Gage

**HYMN**      “*Keep Awake, Be Always Ready*” (see below)

**SHARING OUR PRAYERS & THE LORD’S PRAYER** (using these or words 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**      *Like Those Who Dream*      The Many  
The Once-in-a-While Choir; Cici Hunt, *director*

**OFFERING OURSELVES, DOING THE WORK**

**SINGING OUR THANKS & PRAISE**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, you heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

**BLESSING & COMMISSION**

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 O come, O Wis - dom from on high and or - der all things  
 O come, O Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
 O come, De - sire of Na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 far and nigh; to us the path of know - ledge  
 ad - vent here; Love stir with - in the womb of  
 heart and mind; Make en - vy, strife, and quar - rels

here un - til the Child of God ap - pear.  
 show and help us in that way to go.  
 night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.  
 cease; fill the whole world with hea - ven's peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

## Keep Awake, Be Always Ready



Keep a - wake, be al - ways rea - dy, God's  
Clouds, the Spir - it's light con - ceal - ing, dis -

Rise and shine for One is com - ing whose  
On that day to end all weep - ing, death's



time ap - proach - es sure and stea - dy, God's  
perse, God's pur - est light re - veal - ing; cre -

love will quench all na - ture's thirs - ting to  
swords trans - formed to tools of reap - ing, the



strength will keep your heart from blame.  
a - tion will its Sov'-reign name. Dry branch - es burst forth

be made whole for - ev - er more.  
God of might will mer - cy pour. In - car - nate God ap -



green, God's ad - ventsigns are seen: Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ's

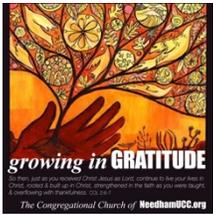
pears em - brac - ing all our tears: Hal - le - lu - jah! God's



judg-ment won, God's will be done; God's new do - min - ion thus be - gun.

maj - es - ty e - ter - nal - ly re - vealed to set the cos - mos free.

## Events, Fellowship and Mission



**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 who you can generously support our church and work together from a place of generosity this year. You can fill out a pledge form online at [www.NeedhamUCC.org/Giving](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org/Giving)

**ADVENT BEGINS! "Those Who Dream" Daily Devotional for Advent-Christmas-Epiphany** - Set aside some time this season to renew your spirit with this daily devotional of reading, art, reflection, and rest keyed to our "Those Who Dream" theme. We hope this helps turn your holidays into holy days. The devotional is available for download as a pdf file at [www.NeedhamUCC.org/devotional](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org/devotional)



**Donate Christmas Flowers** - In past years we've asked for donations for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the season. This year your donation will go to buy fragrant rosemary Christmas trees we'll distribute to members of our congregation to remind them they are in our thoughts and in our hearts. You can make your donation via the PayPal link on our website at [www.NeedhamUCC.org](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org) (choose "Christmas Flowers" from the drop-down menu) or send your check made out to "Congregational Church of Needham" with the memo: "Christmas Flowers" to the church office. **We'll also be recruiting deliverers for Sunday, 12/13 @ 1pm.**



**FINAL SUNDAY! The Giving Tree** - For this year's Christmas Giving Tree, we're collecting donations to be turned into gift cards for the families transitioning from homelessness into stable housing with the help of Family Promise Metrowest. Your donations will empower these parents to choose gifts for their own children and put food on the table. You can make your donation via the PayPal link on website at [www.NeedhamUCC.org](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org) (simply choose "Giving Tree" from the drop-down menu).



**Online Christmas Concert – 12/13 @ 7pm via YouTube** - Valerie Becker, our music director, is working to pull together 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 will premiere on our church YouTube channel ("Congregational Church of Needham") on Sunday, 12/13 @ 7pm and be available to watch any time after. Direct connection info will be available on our website at

[www.NeedhamUCC.org](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org).



**Church Family Christmas Party – 12/20 @ 4pm LIVE! via Zoom** - Join us for a Congregational Church family Christmas party for all ages. We'll break into groups for an in-house (*your* house) holiday-themed scavenger hunt; we'll lean into the awkwardness of Zoom-delay for a carol sing-off; we'll give prizes for the most spirited "gay apparel" (as in "*Don we now...*"); and, especially for the children among us, we'll share a story about Santa's own "reason for the season" (hint: it has to do with the best gift God ever gave the world).

**Worship Flower Donations** – If you'd like to remember or honor someone or something special in your life - a loved one, an anniversary, etc. – donate flowers for the altar. [Sign up here](#) at or email the church office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) with 2 date choices and your dedication for the Order of Worship. Donations can be made via check or the church's PayPal account (see below).