



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 13, 2020 @ 10am

The Congregational Church of Needham (MA),
United Church of Christ

www.NeedhamUCC.org

“Those Who Dream Sow Joy”

PRELUDE

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Emily Verschoor-Kirss

WELCOME & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Carl & Fabienne Madsen

I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.

I dream of laughter that is contagious.

I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.

I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.

I dream of homemade Halloween costumes and homemade family recipes.

I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.

I dream of every little thing that brings joy; and I know it comes from God.

So today we light the candle of joy

We light it as a reminder that God's dream for this world

involves the end of all tears.

God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.

So may this fire burn bright, and may we sing.

May we dance. May we laugh. May we hold onto the people we love.

May we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it become an act of resistance.

Let us pray...

HYMN

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” (see below)

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

from the Gospels, Luke 1:39-55

TIME ESPECIALLY WITH CHILDREN

The Rev. Maddie Foster

SERMON

The Rev. John MacIver Gage

HYMN

“My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout” (Canticle of the Turning) (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

What Child is This? / Child of the Poor
The Chancel Choir

by W. Chatterton Dix & S. Soper

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

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



A - wake! a - wake! and greet the new morn, for
To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
In deep - est night Christ's co - mingshall be, when
Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawning, sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
cold the win - ter and cheerless, the ri - sing sun shall



Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing
One with - out voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our end - less



geth - er, to o - pen wide the heav'n - ly door, and
kind - ness, the thun - der of the an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak are raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry, may God fill ev - 'ry day we share, and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all hate and in - jus - tice.
weapons are bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

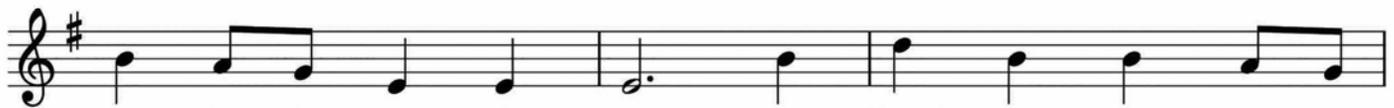
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us



great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you
me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the
stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - ery
fast: God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the



bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your
end of the age to be. Your ver - y name puts the
ty - rant from his throne. The hun - gry poor shall
con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing word that our



ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from
proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn; there are
fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, till the



east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
ta - bles spread; ev - ery mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

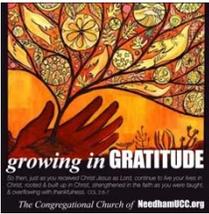


My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe a -



way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Events, 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. Fill out a pledge form at 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

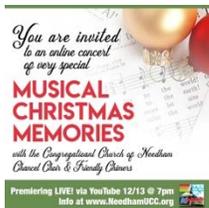


Donate Christmas Flowers - In past years we've asked for donations for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the season. This year your donation will go to buy fragrant rosemary Christmas trees we'll distribute to members of our congregation to remind them they are in our thoughts and in our hearts. You can make your donation via the PayPal link on our website at www.NeedhamUCC.org (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**

are recruiting deliverers for Sun., 12/13 @ 1pm. Sign up here:

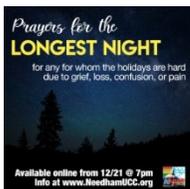
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844A8AA23A2FD0-christmas>



Online Christmas Concert – 12/13 @ 7pm via YouTube - 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 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.



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).



Longest Night Service available from Monday, 12/21 @ 7pm via YouTube. As beautiful as God's gift of love in Jesus is, our observance of Advent and Christmas should never be a forced march to false happiness for anyone. "Immanuel" means "God with us" right where we are, and that include in the shadow of the star, in grief, loss, confusion, and pain. That's never been truer than this year, when the shadows are deep for so many folks. This service is a reminder that God is indeed with us, no

matter who we are, no matter where we are on life's journey. Love persists, even now.

This service will premiere on our YouTube channel ("Congregational Church of Needham") on the longest night of the year, Mon., Dec. 21 @ 7pm and be available to watch any time after. Direct connection info will be available on our website at www.NeedhamUCC.org.



Just in time for the holidays! The Guatemala Partnership has a limited number of face masks for sale. These make great stocking stuffers! 100% of the proceeds go to support education and healthcare in Santa Maria Tzeja, Guatemala. If you are interested in purchasing a mask, or learning more about the Guatemala Partnership, please contact Jeff Clausen at clausenj@gmail.com. Includes free delivery in the Boston Metro area or free shipping anywhere in the U.S.! Masks are \$20 dollars & payment may be made via debit/credit, paypal, and venmo.