



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 10, 2021 @ 10am: Baptism of Christ Sunday

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

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

### “Rain Down: Believing Baptism”

*For this service, you will need access to water, in a bowl or cup (and perhaps a towel)*

#### PRELUDE

*Number 8*

*by John James*

#### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we come to this holy work of worship, let us remember God’s good gifts to us in the sign of water:

**Many: Womb to wave, stream to sea, God’s love rains down.**

One: In the beginning, God breathed on the waters and stirred up life, the world and all that is in it; from the wet stuff of the earth, God formed us and called us all ‘good.’

**Many: Womb to wave, stream to sea, God’s love rains down.**

One: When evil threatened to swallow up creation, God sent a flood to wash it away; when the children of God were caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, God parted the waters and brought them over into freedom.

**Many: Womb to wave, stream to sea, God’s love rains down.**

One: In the fullness of time, God came to us in Jesus, nurtured in the waters of Mary’s womb, baptized by John on Jordan’s bank—Jesus, who washes his disciples’ feet and offers us living water that will not fail.

**Many: God’s love rains down, on just and unjust alike; this is the sign of God’s grace toward us all.**

**All: Let us worship God together.**

#### TIME ESPECIALLY WITH CHILDREN

The Rev. Maddie Foster

#### SHARING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*with Teddy Keating, child of Brian & Kristi Keating*

One: And now to this congregation gathered in the Spirit of Christ, I ask you, what will you promise this child and this family on behalf of the entire Church?

**Many: On behalf of the entire church of Jesus Christ, we witness and celebrate this sacrament with you. We affirm God’s unshakable love for this child and for all persons. With God’s help, we promise you our prayerful support as we journey together as the Body of Christ, a family in faith.**

One: And do you yourselves desire to remember, reaffirm, and imagine your own baptism, becoming like a little child once more, so you may to enter into these waters once more and into a fuller experience of the kin-dom of God with this little one?

**Many: We do.**

#### ANTHEM

*“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”*

#### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

*from the Gospels, Mark 1:4-11*

**SERMON**

The Rev. John MacIver Gage

**HYMN**

*“In Water We Grow” (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.**

**OFFERING OUR THANKS & OURSELVES**

**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**

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in  
honor of the birth of Dean Carter Bromberg by the Carter Family.*

## In Water We Grow



In wa - ter we grow, se - cure in the womb,  
In wa - ter we wash: the dirt of each day,  
In wa - ter we dive, and can - not draw breath,  
In wa - ter we dwell, for by its deep flow



and speech - less - ly know love's safe - ty and room.  
its trou - ble and rush are car - ried a - way.  
then sur - face a - live, re - bound - ing from death.  
through blood-stream and cell, we live, think, and grow.



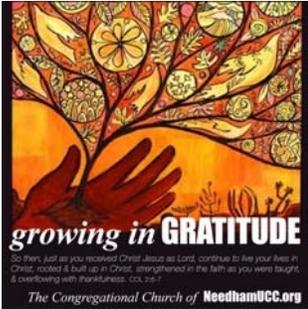
Bap - ti - zing and bless - ing we pub - lish for good  
In Christ re - cre - a - ted by love's cleans - ing art,  
Our old self goes un - der, in Christ dead and drowned.  
Praise God, love out - flow - ing, whose well of new birth



the free - ing, ca - ress - ing safe - keep - ing of God.  
self - will and self - ha - tred dis - solve and de - part.  
We rise, washed in won - der, by love clad and crowned.  
bap - ti - zes our know - ing and wa - ters the earth.

## Events, Fellowship and Mission

Please attend a special forum **THIS SUNDAY, January 10** immediately following worship. 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.



**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](http://www.NeedhamUCC.org/Giving)

# SAVE THE DATE

## 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.

We will be emailing the Annual Report to the email addresses we have in our system. If your email address has changed or we do not have your email and you would like a copy, please contact the church office. There will be a limited number of annual reports available at the parking lot Church Office door on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> for contactless pick-up. If you would like the Annual report mailed to you, please contact the office at [office@needhamucc.org](mailto:office@needhamucc.org) or 781-444-2510.