



ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 21, 2021 @ 10am

1st Sunday in Lent

Our Lenten theme this year is “Grounded,” as we seek to ground ourselves once more in some key elements of our faith: church; creation; sin & forgiveness; incarnation; prayer; justice, peace, salvation, & the Kingdom of God; death, resurrection, & hope; and the Holy Spirit.

**The Congregational Church of Needham (MA),
United Church of Christ
www.NeedhamUCC.org**

PRELUDE

Cantabile
Valerie Becker, organ

by W. Guilmant

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends, we are invited here by the living God, who created all things and calls us each by name.

Many: In the thick of life, in our joys and challenges, we gather now in the presence of the Holy.

One: People of every race and ethnicity, younger and older and middle-aged, individuals and families, of differing gifts and abilities,

Many: richer and poorer, gay and straight, of every gender identity and expression, Christ calls us to join in this worship and work.

One: This congregation is a place to pursue the Spirit’s vision for all people,

Many: where we practice justice, peace, and compassion and learn to live together in faith.

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

HYMN

“The Glory of These Forty Days” (see below)

SCRIPTURE

from the Acts of the Apostles, Acts 2:42-7

TIME ESPECIALLY WITH CHILDREN

The Rev. Maddie Foster

SERMON

“Grounded: What is Church for?”

The Rev. John MacIver Gage

HYMN

“Come and Find the Quiet Center” (see below)

SHARING OUR PRAYERS (“Oh God, hear our prayer”)

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(using these or whichever words are 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.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
The Once-in-a-While Choir; Cici Hunt, director

by T. Talbot

OFFERING OUR THANKS & OURSELVES

SINGING OUR PRAISE

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

BLESSING & COMMISSION

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of my mother from Nancy Lane.

The Glory of These Forty Days



1. The glo - ry of these for - ty days We
2. A - lone and fast - ing, Mo - ses saw The
3. So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, De -
4. Then grant that we like them be true, Con -



cel - e - brate with songs of praise; For Christ, by whom all
lov - ing God who gave the law; And to E - li - jah,
liv - ered from the li - on's might; And John, the Bride - groom's
sumed in fast and prayer with You; Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, Him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came The steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came The her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with Your grace, And give us joy to see Your face.



Come and Find the Quiet Center



Come and find the quiet cen - ter
Si - lence is a friend who claims us,
In the Spir - it let us trav - el,



in the crowd - ed life we lead.
Cools the heat and slows the pace,
O - pen to each oth - er's pain,



Find the room for hope to en - ter,
God it is who speaks and names us,
Let our loves and fears un - rav - el,



Find the framewhere we are freed: Clear the cha - os and the
Knows our be - ing, touch-es base, Ma - kingspacewith-in our
Cel - e - brate the space we gain: There's a place for deep-est



clut - ter, Clear our eyes that we may see All thethings that real - ly
think-ing, Lift - ingshades to show the sun, Rais-ing cour-age when we're
dreaming, There's a time for heart to care, In the Spir - it's live - ly



mat - ter, Be at peace and sim - ply be.
shrink - ing, Find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
schem - ing There is al - ways room to spare!

Events, Fellowship and Mission



"Creation Justice Book Reports" with the Environmental Ministry Team - Sunday, February 21 @ 11am

"I know climate justice is important, and there are so many books I could read to be better informed. Where do I start?" The Environmental Ministry Team of our congregation is here to help. Join us Sunday, 2/21 @ 11am LIVE! via Zoom, when members of the team will share "book reports" and recommendations of books about climate change and climate justice they've found helpful as we journey together toward justice.

CALLING ALL TRIVIA BUFFS (or otherwise bored folks)!

The Gotwals and Conroys (and their friends, the Aglers) invite you to shed the winter blues for a couple of hours of friendly trivia fun SATURDAY 2/27 @ 7:30-9:30pm LIVE! via Zoom.

What do you need?

- A team of up to 5 people, cohabitating or remote (if so, connected via cell phone). Inviting non-church folks to be a part of your team would be a great way to introduce them to our community.
- A laptop or tablet connected to Zoom (with your microphone muted)
- A cellphone. You'll text in answers to the scorekeeper

What do you win? Bragging rights and 2 hours of enjoyable diversion

What does it cost? You're encouraged to make a free-will donation of \$10/person to the church

What do you need to do next? Go to www.NeedhamUCC.org/Trivia to sign up and make your donation safely and easily via PayPal. You'll need to supply an email address in order to receive the Zoom link shortly before game night. Questions? Contact Danielle in the church office at office@needhamucc.org for more info.



"Close the Loop, Open the Sermon" conversation series LIVE! via Zoom during Lent at our usual worship link: <http://zoom.us/j/907548568> Rev. John will be offering what he's calling "Close the Loop, Open the Sermon" conversations LIVE! on Zoom each Wednesday @ 12 Noon and Thursday @ 7:30pm throughout the "Grounded" Lenten sermon series beginning 2/24-2/25 to give us a chance to really talk about each of these essential topics. As Rev. John says, "Just because they're essential—especially because they're essential!—doesn't mean there's just own way to understand them, and especially not just my way. It's good to reflect together."

After-Worship Conversations Sundays 2/28, 3/14, & 3/28 @ 11:15am - LIVE! via Zoom

It takes a whole church to be a whole church. Our church needs your input and participation in order to be as healthy and sustainable a community as we can be. We've already seen marvelous growth in our stewardship pledge campaign to fund the church budget in 2021, but there's more we need to do. The Boards of Directors and Deacons have identified three areas, in particular, where we need your help in new ways. Please plan to be a part of one or all of these important conversations:

2/28: Growing Membership

3/14: Fundraising for the Operating Budget

3/28: Growing Rental Income

There's more about each of these topics in the Lenten Focus newsletter, available for download at <https://www.needhamucc.org/uploads/1/2/3/8/123837902/2021lentfocus.pdf>

Needham Community Council Presentation - March 7th

After worship on Sunday, March 7, 2021, Sandra Robinson, Executive Director of The Needham Community Council, is happy to join us to share information about the Council's activities and contributions to our community. The 30 minute presentation will include a video (11 minutes) showing the variety of services provided by the Council, a short talk by Sandra, followed by a 15 minute Q&A session. This month, she is providing a similar presentation to folks at the Baptist Church.