

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 11, 2021 @ 10am

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

PRELUDE

Sonata in D Major

Baldassare Galuppi
Valerie Becker, *piano*

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. John MacIver Gage

One: We bid you welcome, who come with a weary spirit seeking rest,

Many: who come with troubles that are too much with you, who come hurt and afraid.

One: We bid you welcome, who come with hope in your heart,

Many: who come with anticipation in your step, who come proud and joyous.

One: We bid you welcome, who are seekers of new faith, no matter your age or experience,

Many: who come to probe and explore, who come to learn and to lead.

One: We bid you welcome, who enter this sanctuary, yes, and this community as a homecoming,

Many: who have found here room for your spirit, who find in this people a family.

One: Whoever, however you are, no matter where you are on life's journey,

Many: you are invited here, and welcome.

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

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God (see below)

Maggie Furtak, *cantor*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

from the Hebrew Bible, 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

SERMON

Joy Unbounded

The Rev. Holly Millershank

HYMN

How Can I Keep from Singing (see below)

Maggie Furtak, *cantor*

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.

ANTHEM

Souvenir

Génari Karganov
Valerie Becker, *piano*

OFFERING OUR THANKS & OUR LIVES

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!**

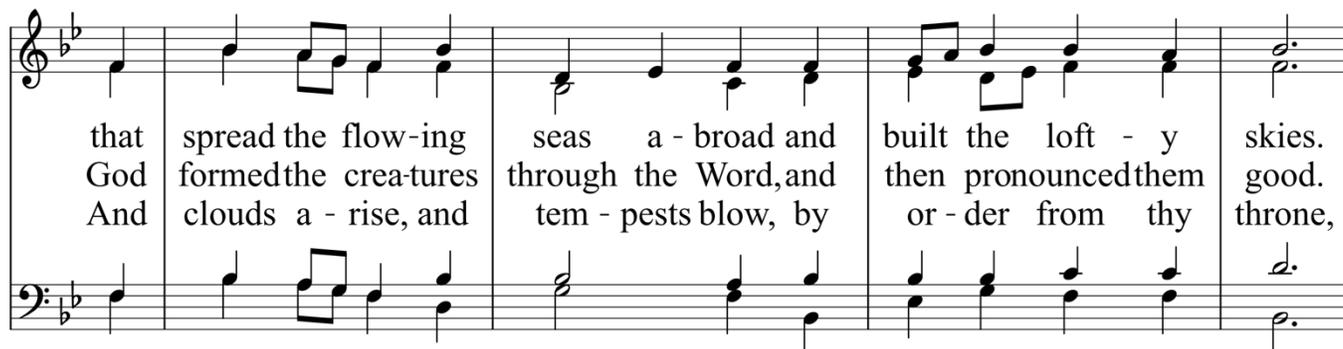
BLESSING & COMMISSION

Our guest preacher today is The Rev. Holly Millershank. Rev. Holly has served God and our United Church of Christ denominational family in many roles, including as a youth leader, a Volunteer in India with Global Ministries, a Public Policy Intern in Washington, DC., a local church pastor, a member of the board for Local Church Ministries, and national Team Leader for Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization (MESA). She currently serves as our Interim Associate Conference Minister here in Metropolitan Boston and also the Northeast Associations of the Southern New England Conference, where Rev. John works with her on the Committee on Ministerial Standing that relates to authorized ministers and congregations.

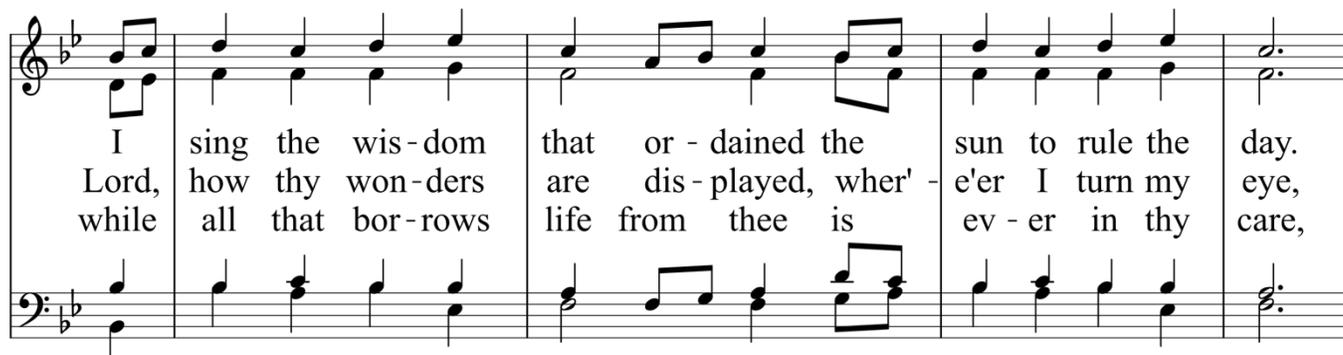
I Sing the Mighty Power of God



I sing the might-y pow'r of God that made the mountains rise,
 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
 There's not a plant or flow'r be-low but makes thy glor-ies known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
 And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy throne,



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
 Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher'-e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,



The moonshines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
 and ev'-ry-where that we can be, thou, God, art pre-sent there.

My Life Flows On in Endless Song / How Can I Keep from Singing?

My life flows on in end - less song, a -
 Through all the tu - mult and the strife we
 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, in
 What though my joys and com - forts die? I
 bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion. I hear the clear, though
 hear that mu - sic ring - ing. It finds an ech - o
 vain to pow - er cling - ing, when friends re - joice both
 know my Sav - ior liv - eth! What though the dark - ness
 far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 in our souls. How can we keep from sing - ing?
 far and near, How can we keep from sing - ing?
 gath - er round? Songs in the night Christ giv - eth.
 No storm can shake my in - most calm while
 No storm can shake our in - most calm while
 In pri - son cell and dun - geon vile our
 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a
 to that Rock I'm cling - ing. Since Christ is Lord of
 to our God we're cling - ing. Since Love is Lord of
 thoughts to them are wing - ing. When friends by shame are
 foun - tain ev - er springing! All joys are mine since
 heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?
 heav'n and earth, how can we keep from singing?
 un - de - filed, how can we keep from singing?
 I am Christ's. How can I keep from singing?

Events, Fellowship and Mission

TODAY– Diego Low of the MetroWest Workers Center – Today, immediately following Worship, there will be a presentation by Diego Low of the Metrowest Worker Center about the ways in which the Center helps immigrant workers and their families, and how our church can help.



Hybrid Worship – This summer we will be settling into our new normal of Hybrid Worship as we gather simultaneously in-person and remote for the very first time. We hope you will join us, either live in the Sanctuary or live via Zoom, as the Spirit leads you.

If you choose to participate via Zoom, nothing will change. You already know the drill. You can log in through Zoom and download your Order of Worship. If you choose to participate in the sanctuary, here is what you need to know:

- You do not need to sign up ahead of time.
- Print out and bring your Order of Worship if you like. All words you need to participate in worship will be projected.
- Enter from the parking lot through the door by the office. If you or a loved one need to use the ramp, please contact Rev. John at revjohn@needhamucc.org ahead of time and plan to park in front of the church along Great Plain Ave.
- Bring and wear your mask. Everyone over 2 years old will be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
- Dress comfortably. It's summer, and the sanctuary is not air conditioned. The windows will be closed to keep the cool air in, with the shutters closed on the parking lot side (again, to keep things cool) and open on the street side (to let in the light.)
- Give your name to the ushers to help us with contact tracing.
- Maintain social distance. We've taken the guesswork out of seating and taped off pews accordingly. You can choose your own seat anywhere in the green. Families may sit together. We will not have coffee hour and we encourage any socializing to occur outdoors.
- We will not sing, not yet. (If you're participating via Zoom, sing out as loud as you like.) We will re-evaluate this as we move toward the fall. But Valerie will play the organ live.
- Bathroom facilities will be available on a one-at-a-time basis.
- There will be no childcare and no in-person Sunday school, since the youngest among us are still unvaccinated and vulnerable.

Rev. Maddie and I are delighted to welcome back those who choose to attend in person and to welcome again those who choose to remain online. That's what this is all about: creating equitable access to a vibrant shared worship experience so you can make the choices you need to for you and your family.

If you would like to be trained as a tech deacon please contact revjohn@needhamucc.org and let me know. I look forward to seeing you for our hybrid worship, one way or another, in person or remote, and to continuing to discern together where God is leading us and what we're called to become, not just in this pandemic moment, but as we move forward together into the future.

Peace, Rev. John



“A maze is about losing your way. A labyrinth is about finding it.”

A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool, a walking meditation for the heart, mind, soul, and body.. We hope walking this labyrinth gives you peace, clarity, and even just some nice time outdoors. **Remember: Unlike a maze, you cannot get lost in a labyrinth. Just keep walkin’...**