

WONDER

with Valarie Kaur's
See No Stranger



9/12 @ 10am, LIVE! In-Person & Zoom
More Info at NeedhamUCC.org



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

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The Rev. John Gage, *senior minister*
The Rev. Maddie Foster, *minister for youth & children*
Valerie Becker, *director of music*
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Order of Worship for September 12, 2021

PRELUDE

Valerie Becker, *organ*

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. John Gage & The Rev. Maddie Foster

One: When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, he said:

Many: “Love God and your neighbor and yourself with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. Love even your enemies.”

One: Mindful of that challenge, we come together to learn and practice love not as a feeling, but as a labor,

Many: to learn from Jesus and one another how to put love to work in the world, to remake the world.

One: Love begins with wonder, being open to wondering about our neighbors, even our enemies.

Many: So we wonder with the Psalmist, “What are human beings, O God, that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?” (Ps 8:4)

One: Help us set aside old, familiar stories about people we think we know and ask new questions,

Many: that we may forge new paths that lead to better outcomes for us and for all your creation.

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

HYMN

Draw the Circle Wide (see below)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE

from the Gospels, Luke 19:1-10

SERMON

Wonder (See No Stranger, 1/9)

HYMN

We Will Build Your Church, O Christ (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 kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *(together, using whatever food & drink you have on hand)*

ANTHEM

“The Day is Coming” by M. Miller

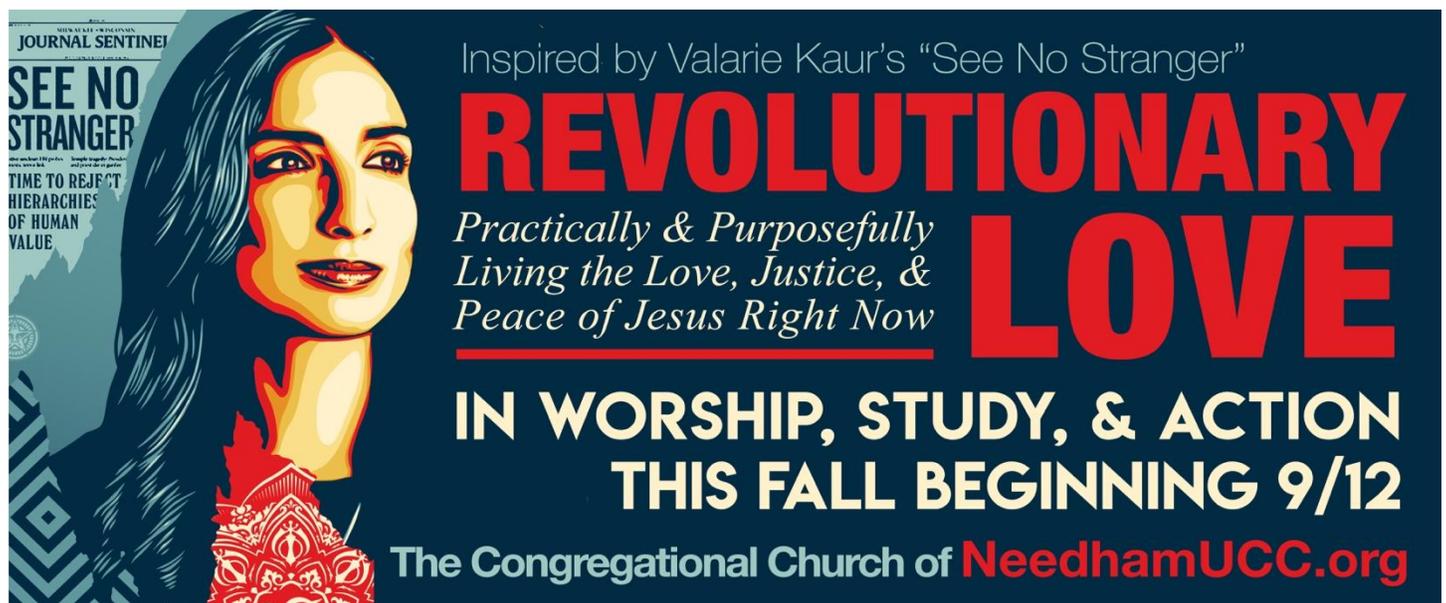
Chancel Choir

OFFERING OUR THANKS & OUR COMMITMENT

**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

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Barbara Boyd from Bob Boyd.*



JOURNAL SENTINEL
SEE NO STRANGER
TIME TO REJECT HIERARCHIES OF HUMAN VALUE

Inspired by Valarie Kaur's "See No Stranger"

REVOLUTIONARY LOVE

*Practically & Purposefully
Living the Love, Justice, &
Peace of Jesus Right Now*

**IN WORSHIP, STUDY, & ACTION
THIS FALL BEGINNING 9/12**

The Congregational Church of **NeedhamUCC.org**

NOTE: This fall, we are spending nine Sundays putting Valerie Kaur's book, *See No Stranger: A Memoir & Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, in conversation with the Gospel of Jesus. Kaur is a civil rights activist, filmmaker, and Sikh faith leader, a visionary calling diverse allies to transform the world in "revolutionary love" expressed in nine compass points: *wonder, grieve, fight; rage, listen, reimagine; breathe, push, transition*. She asks, "What if the darkness of our world just now is the darkness, not of the tomb, but the womb?" **We're forming a weekly book group to engage this work together. Please let Rev. John know if you'd like to be involved: revjohn@needhamucc.org.**

Draw the Circle Wide

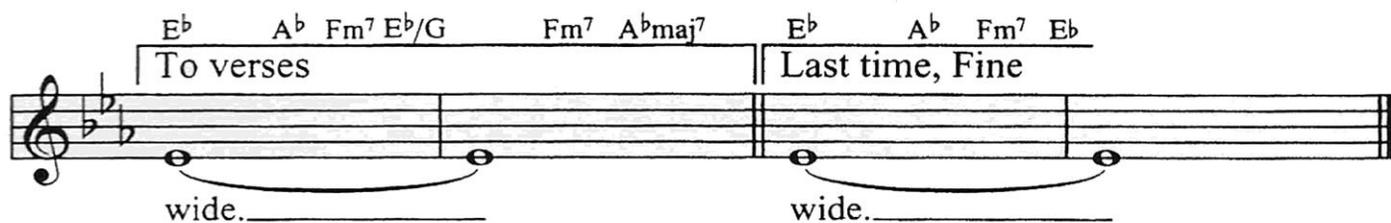
♩=132



Draw the cir-cle_ wide. Draw it wid-er still. Let this be our_



song, no one stands a - lone, stand-ing side by side, draw the cir-cle_



wide._____

wide._____



1. God the still - point of the cir - cle, 'round whom all cre -
2. Let our hearts touch far hor - i - zons, so en - com - pass
3. Let the dreams we_ dream be larg - er, than we've ev - er

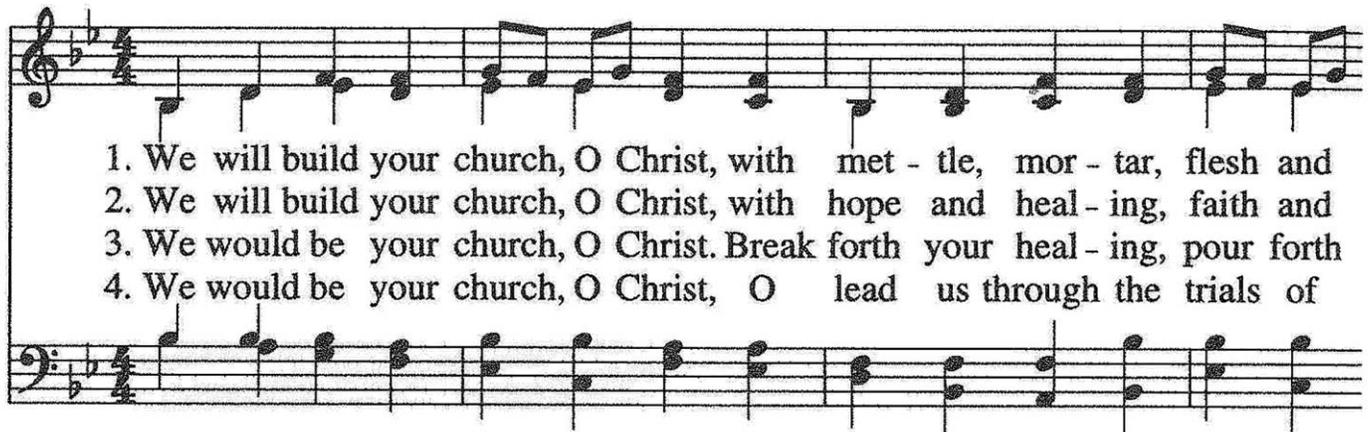


- a - tion turns; noth - ing lost, but
great and small; let our lov - ing
dreamed be - fore; let the dream of

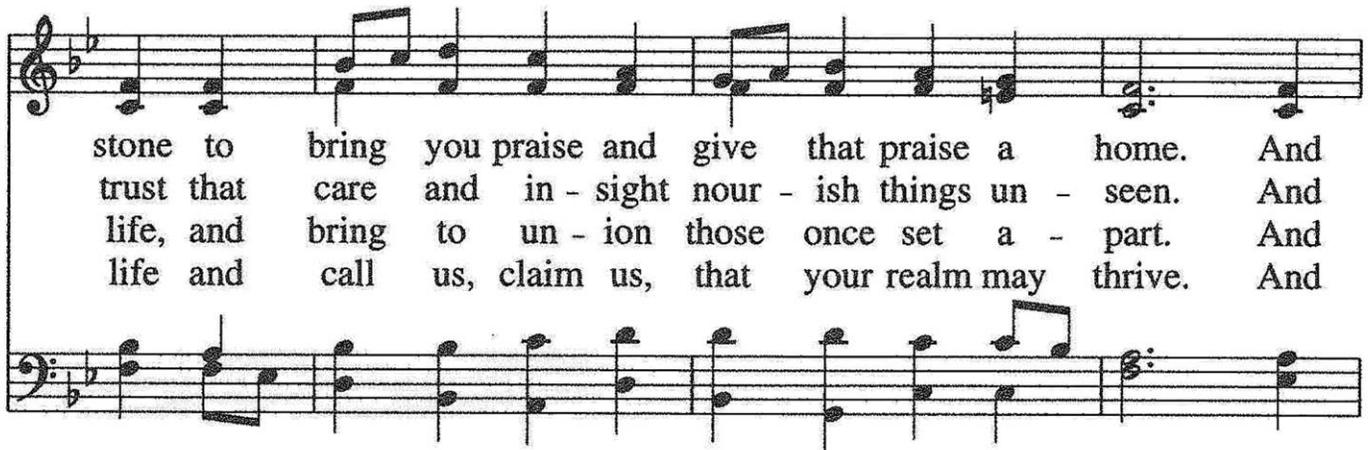


held for - ev - er in God's gra - cious arms._____
know no bor - ders, faith - ful to God's call._____
Christ be in us, o - pen ev - 'ry door._____

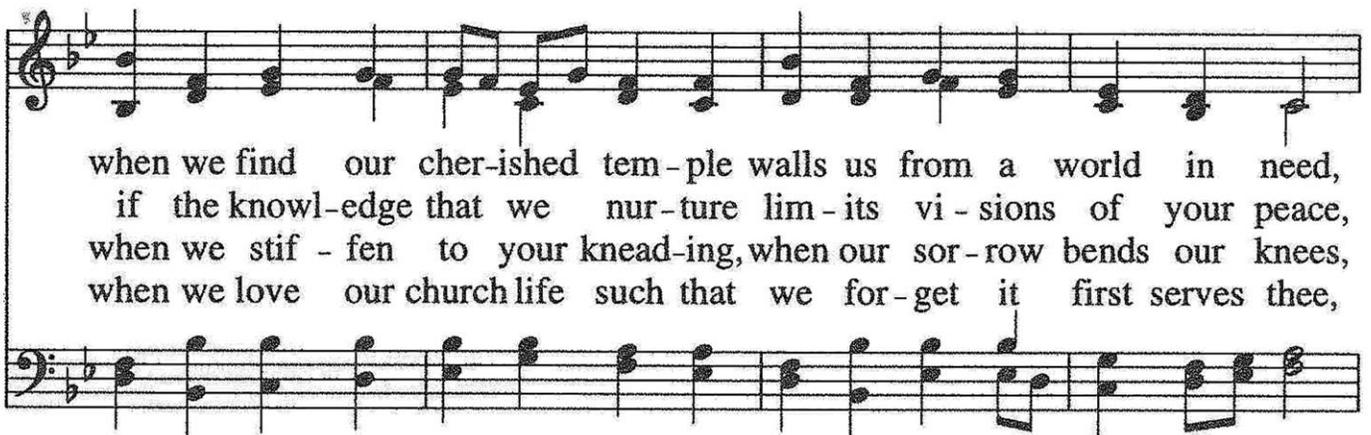
We Will Build Your Church, O Christ



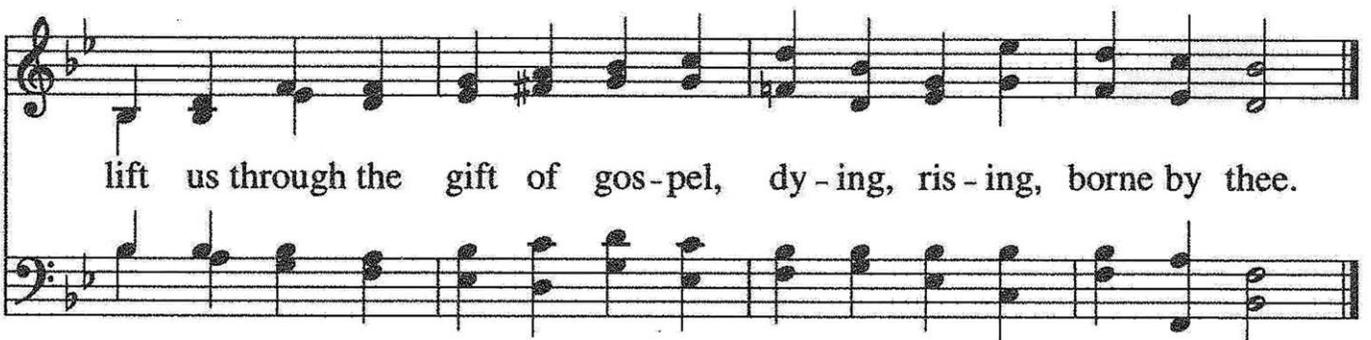
1. We will build your church, O Christ, with met - tle, mor - tar, flesh and
2. We will build your church, O Christ, with hope and heal - ing, faith and
3. We would be your church, O Christ. Break forth your heal - ing, pour forth
4. We would be your church, O Christ, O lead us through the trials of



stone to bring you praise and give that praise a home. And
trust that care and in - sight nour - ish things un - seen. And
life, and bring to un - ion those once set a - part. And
life and call us, claim us, that your realm may thrive. And



when we find our cher-ished tem-ple walls us from a world in need,
if the knowl-edge that we nur-ture lim-its vi-sions of your peace,
when we stif - fen to your knead-ing, when our sor-row bends our knees,
when we love our church life such that we for-get it first serves thee,



lift us through the gift of gos-pel, dy - ing, ris - ing, borne by thee.

Events, Fellowship and Mission



Guatemala Yard Sale, Sat., Sept. 18th, Donation Information - The Guatemala Yard Sale will be Sat., Sept. 18th, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm on the Church's front lawn! We invite all our church community to join in this 30th annual yard sale as item donors, volunteer workers, and shoppers! Proceeds benefit education in our sister community in Guatemala.

Schedule for Donation Drop-Offs (At the Church Library via outside steps from the parking lot):

- Sun. Sept. 12 (11:30 am - 2:00 pm)
- Mon. Tues., Wed., Sept. 13-15 (10 am - 3 pm)
- Thurs. Sept. 16 (Yom Kippur) (10 am - 3 pm) PLUS Evening Hours: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Fri. Sept. 17 (10 am - NOON only)

Items Wanted (in clean, working order): Kitchen and household items, children's gear, toys, games, and puzzles for all ages, current sports equipment, bikes, collectible or vintage items, jewelry, framed artwork, electronics (no TV's or computers), books/DVD's/records, outdoor furniture, or small furniture items.

Volunteers Needed for:

Sept. 13-17 - 10 am - 4 pm (for Sorting/Pricing) & Sat. Sept. 18 - 7:00 am - 4:00 (Yard Sale Staffing)

For Questions or to Volunteer: Contact Brenda Metzler: bmetzler7@verizon.net

Socially Responsible Investing - Monday, September 20th @7:30pm Live on Zoom at

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84313764849?pwd=RGFoUTgrS0l5ejNMTUdGZHNlbnVxUT09>

EMT & Outreach are sponsoring an introductory talk about what is sometimes referred to as Socially Responsible Investing. Socially Responsible Investing (also known as ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) Investing) is no longer a niche - it has become a mainstream form of investing with hundreds of available fund options across most major asset classes. We'll discuss the principles behind ESG investing as well as practical implementation for your investment portfolio with specific fund examples.

Ride for Food/Off the Beaten Path - For the 6th consecutive year the Church is sponsoring Ride for Food team.

To Register - Visit our team page on the Three Squares web site: <https://ride.threesquaresne.org/team/371634> .

Click on "Join Team" on the left side and follow the instructions from there.

To Donate - Visit our team page on the Three Squares web site: <https://ride.threesquaresne.org/team/371634> . Click on "Donate" on the left side and follow the instructions from there.

Hybrid Worship – This fall we will be meeting for Hybrid Worship, gathering simultaneously in-person and remote. 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 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.
- 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.
- Dress comfortably. The sanctuary is not air conditioned.
- Give your name to the ushers to help us with contact tracing.
- Maintain social distance. Families may sit together. We will not have coffee hour.
- We will not sing, not yet. But Valerie will play the organ live.
- Bathroom facilities will be available on a one-at-a-time basis.
- There will be no childcare.

Rev. Maddie and 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