



The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2013

10:00 o'clock am



WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ, is a community that strives to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to share in the costs and joys of discipleship. We unconditionally welcome and affirm people of every age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability, and economic circumstance, and invite everyone into full participation in our church life and ministry.

If you're visiting for the first time, feel uncertain about church, find yourself here infrequently, or attend weekly, there's a place for you here. There are many ways to be involved and if you'd like to know more about our many activities, please speak to a greeter or the pastor.

We ask that you wear a name tag to help us know each other.

Blank name tags are available by the door for anyone in need.

Please be sure to sign the Pew Register which you will find on the center aisle.

As an act of prayer, you are encouraged to light a candle on the table at the front of the sanctuary—for yourself, for a loved one, for peace, for the world.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come

—Buttstedt

Welcome

Call to Worship (*adapted from Luke 1:47-55*)

Jenny Briggs

One: Our souls magnify the Most High,

All: and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour!

One: God's mercy is for those who love and revere God,
from generation to generation.

**All: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;**

One: God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

All: Blessed be God's name. Let us worship God!

***Opening Song**

"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

107

The Advent Candles

The Briggs Family

One: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together.

** Please rise in body or spirit as you are able*

Two: But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised.

One: So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Three candles are lit.

All: *Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.*

Sung Response

One Candle Is Lit

tune: Cradle Song

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage,

One candle is lit for the hope of the age.
Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

Come festively sing while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thank-ful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

Sharing Ourselves with God

Prayer of Confession: "Open Our Eyes"

***The Good News of God's Grace and Presence**

***Passing of the Peace**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Choral Anthem

"Advent Alleluia"

—Althouse

Time with Young Christians

**"Hamlet:
The Annunciation"**

—Salt Project

Hymn **“Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child”** **# 136**

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

One: God in your mercy ***All: Hear our prayer***

From the Bible Isaiah 35:1-10 Brenda Briggs

The Magnificat —Salt Project
(Luke 1:46b-55)

Anthem **“Gesu Bambino”** —Yon
Marsha Johnson, Soloist

Poem Mary Pondering Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Choral Anthem **“Angels Carol”** —Rutter

Homily IT’S THE LITTLE THINGS Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Hymn **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”** **# 131**

***Offering** Brenda Briggs

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory *Sarabande* —J.S. Bach

***Procession of Gifts**

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter; One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Song** **“How Great Our Joy”** **# Insert**

***Commission and Blessing**

Postlude *Von Himmel Hoch* —Walther
(From Heaven Above)

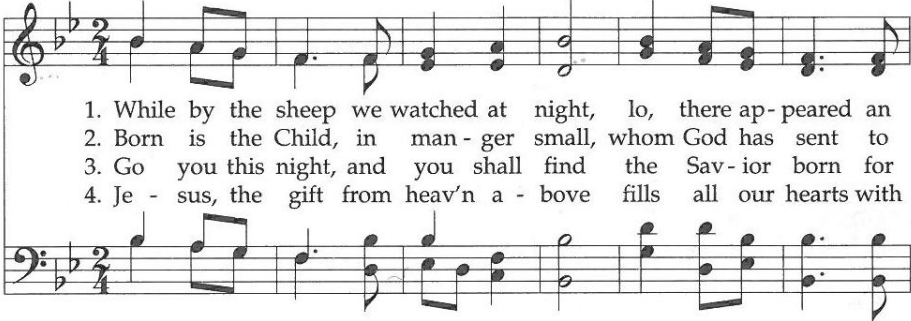


Everyone is encouraged to join in a time of community building
as we share some goodies immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel—
exit the Sanctuary through the door to the left of the pulpit.

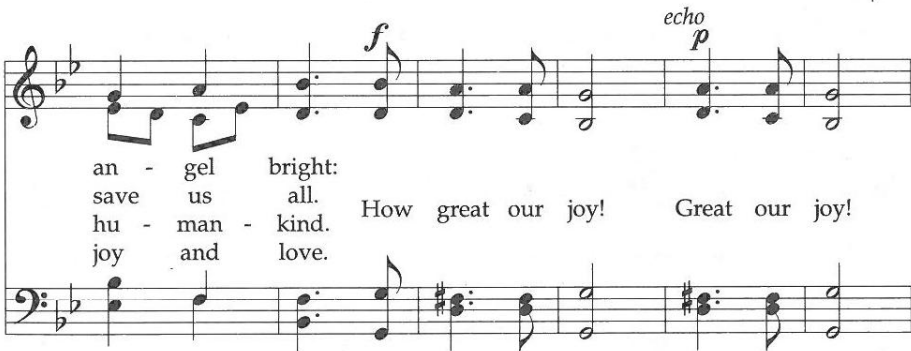
*** Please rise in body or spirit as you are able** -4-

How Great Our Joy!

170



1. While by the sheep we watched at night, lo, there ap- peared an
 2. Born is the Child, in man- ger small, whom God has sent to
 3. Go you this night, and you shall find the Sav- ior born for
 4. Je- sus, the gift from heav'n a- bove fills all our hearts with



an - gel bright:
 save us all. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 hu - man - kind. joy and love.



Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Glo - ry to God who



reigns on high! Glo - ry to God who reigns on high!

WORDS: Traditional German carol, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional German melody; arr. Hugo Jüngst, c. 1890

JUNGST
 Irr.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

*Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.
Sunday School is offered today for school aged children..*

Today, December 15, Advent II—The Candle of Joy

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm
Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 4:00 pm

The Liturgists today are Brenda Briggs and Jenny Briggs

Deacon of the Month for December is Joy Harris.

*Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for December is the Building and Grounds
and Stewardship Committees.*

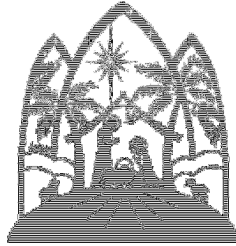
*We celebrate the gift and beauty of the altar flowers given by Brenda Briggs
In loving memory of her father , William P. Todd, Sr.*

We light the candle of joy and celebrate the delights of community as our music ministry brings the Journey to Bethlehem alive with wonderful sounds of the season. Rev. Wendy will offer a homily on the Liberation Song sung by Mary in the Magnificat.

'How Long Must We Wait?'

Advent Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7:00 pm

Reflection, healing, renewal and stillness for the journey as we birth a new thing.
With Rev. Wendy and Rev. Dr. Susan Corso.

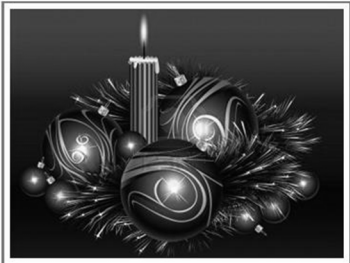


Holy Family Sunday Worship

Anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre

Sunday, Dec. 29, 10:00 am

As we take a breath on this quiet Sunday in the space-in-between, we will look back on the season and ask the question, "How Does Christmas Work?" Turning away from consumption and spending, we turn toward a foreign land to see the way Christmas really works. We will honor the anniversary of the Massacre of Wounded Knee and our worship service will include a call to action—taking Christmas out of the sanctuary and into the work of Christmas.



Christmas
at the
Congregational Church of West Medford
United Church of Christ
www.medfordchurch.org

Christmas Sunday Worship
Advent IV: Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:00 am

We light the candle of love and say "yes" to the presence of God in Jesus and in the world—Emmanuel, God is with us.

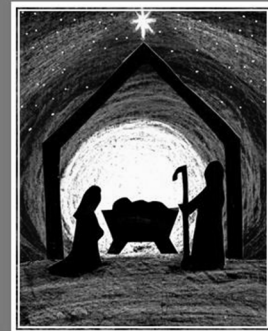


Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship
Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:00 pm

Providing space and time away from the hype of Christmas and an opportunity to experience a sacred presence amidst our sometimes awkward, uncomfortable, and messy lives. Designed especially for those dealing with loss or having a difficult time.

Family Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5:00 pm

Join in the telling and living of the greatest story every told—a joyful and holy un-rehearsed Christmas Pageant for all ages. Bring the kids, bring a costume and take your place in the manger. Costumes will also be provided and your favorite carols will be sung. Communion for all. No experience required!



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, Dec. 24, 11:00 pm

A classic, contemplative Christmas Eve worship service with lessons, carols, Holy Communion and a sense of the sacred. Come for an "Oh, Holy Night."



THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

December 15-21, 2013

December 15 2013 Third Sunday of Advent

Christmas Music Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 4:00 pm

Monday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;

8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH)

Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)

Tuesday

Girl Scouts w B&J Briggs— 6pm (Green Room)

Gamblers Anonymous 7:30 pm (BC)

Gam-Anon—7:30 pm (YR)

Wednesday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am— 6:15 am;

8:15 am--9:00 am 5:30 p--6:15 pm (FH)

Wednesday Advent Worship—7:00 pm (Sanctuary)

Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

Youth Champions—5:00 pm (FH)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;

8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)

Strategic Planning— 9:30 am (LR)

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)

Yoga—9:00 am (FH)

Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

December 22, 2013 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

Faith Formation/Confirmation (LR/DR) 4:00 pm



Weekdays

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, www.BrightStarsKids.org

((M—F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, www.GentleDragonPreschool.org

(M—F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), www.englishatlarge.org

Room Legend: (FH) Fellowship Hall; (BC) Barnes Chapel; (YR) Youth Room; (LR) Living Room

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month: Joy Harris

Clerk: TBD

400 High St. Medford, MA 02155, www.medfordchurch.org

office@medfordchurch.org, 781-395-3360