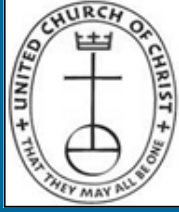


The Congregational Church of West Medford
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Remembering the Anniversary of the Massacre at Wounded Knee

January 5, 2014

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

The Kings

—Cornelius

Welcome

Call to Worship

Brenda Briggs

One: We gather around a child, God-given, world-defying, soul-saving.

**All: We gather around a child, who says to us,
“Don’t be anxious about your life.”**

One: We gather around a child, a miracle in the midst of human deeds and misdeeds, chaos, and questions.

**All: We gather around the Christ child,
whose very presence brings us to singing.**

One: Come then, let us worship. Let us pray.

***Opening Song**

“Arise ,Your Light Is Come”

164

Opening Prayer



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

-2-

Sharing Ourselves with God

Prayer of Confession

One: If we have moved too fast and not seen you,

All: *forgive us, God.*

One: If we have talked too much and not heard you,

All: *forgive us, God.*

One: If we have worked too hard and not had time for you,

All: *forgive us, God.*

One: If we have been distracted by the excesses of Christmas and not shared,

All: *forgive us, God. Amen.*

*The Good News of God's Grace and Presence (Unison)

God's light has come and rescues us from the shadows.

God's grace is revealed and is as constant as the sun.

The Light of the World has come for us and we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*Passing of the Peace

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

*Sung Response

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

154

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time with Young Christians

Children may go to Sunday School at this time

*Carol

"Many Are the Lightbeams"

163

Stanzas 1 & 2

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

One: God in your mercy

All: *Hear our prayer*

From the Bible

Matthew 2: 1—12

Brenda Briggs

*Carol

"Many Are the Lightbeams"

163

Stanzas 3—5

Sermon

HOME BY ANOTHER WAY

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

As With Gladness

—Miles

*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

*Carol

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

160

*Commission and Blessing

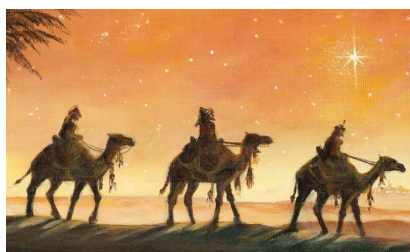
Postlude

Fuge

—Gigault



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*

A Prayer for Epiphany—To Guide You “Home By Another Way”

Light-giving God –

We are magi on a caravan of lumbering hope,
traveling through grinding wind and glaring sun,
chill clear nights and skin-baking days.

We come to seek Your light.

We come lumbering in hope, each of us on our own life's journey

– traveling through times of loneliness and fear,
through heartbreak and anger,
through grief and loss,
through economic uncertainty,
through fear for loved ones caught up in war,
through our own private crises,
through the extended shock of horrific images of hurricanes and genocide,
through struggles with the mental illness of a child,
the disintegration of a parent,
the simple letting go of a child more ready to be an adult
than we are ready to allow their growth,
through the changes in a new marriage,
the welcoming of a new child,
the completion of a degree,
the vision emerging in a new work of art.

We come lumbering in hope on a journey of joys and sorrows.

We come as magi to seek Your light.

But Light-giving God,

we admit that we are also Herod the King,
trembling in fear at the news of the rising of Your light.

We admit that we are afraid that the light of Your truth may indeed rise,
and it may be threatening to us.

Like Herod,

we fear the rise of the truth of the harm we have done to others to build
our own palaces and to fortify our own power;

we fear the rise of the truth that lies beneath the political spin we put on
our own lives;

we fear to admit to ourselves the truth that may rise within us as we
acknowledge the pain of what we have done to others and what others have
done to us.

Continued on next page

Light-giving God,
we come as trembling Herod, afraid of Your light.
But Light-giving God,
we are also magi wrapped in joy to arrive at the manger that cradles Your light.
We greet the rising light that Herod so fears.
We, too, fear this light, this truth.
For here we meet Your light and truth, the truth of our own powerlessness.
We are magi, wise and respected sages.
We are Herod the King, holding wealth and power.
Yet we are no more than this helpless infant,
no more than human flotsam on the tidal wave of time,
human beings, no more and no less.

Light-giving God,
let us sit in stillness in the light of this truth of our powerlessness,
until we can see Your real light cradled here,
until we are enveloped in the assuring light of this truth,
until we shine in the light of the common humanity You reveal to us here.

Light-giving God.
We lumber together in hope as Your church to lift Your Light.
Let the light that we lift be this light visible in the manger.
Let us lift not the light of our congratulation of ourselves,
not the light of belief in our own superiority,
not the light of our belief in our own narrow presuppositions,
not even the light of our own church.
Let us lift the light from You that we can encounter here,
the light of the power You make known to us
in the truth of our powerlessness,
the light we can see as we sit quietly as magi at the manger
learning to be at ease with our common humanity,
learning to be at ease with You.

Let this be the light we lift as a beacon in the darkness we know best.
As we lift that light,
may we too be lifted to know the true power that lies among us
waiting to rise as a beacon of our true hope.

Amen.

Dr. Susan M. (Elli) Elliott
January 9, 2005/revised 2008

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, January 05 - Epiphany Sunday **Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am**

*The Liturgist today is Brenda Briggs
Deacon of the Month for January Brenda Briggs
Leadership for Fellowship Hour and Ushers for January is the Outreach Committee
Thanks to Charlene Carl for this week's coffee hour.
We celebrate the gift and perpetual beauty of the flowers on the altar.*

As brightly as the story's star, the Epiphany opens up the stellar power of God's coming to humanity, and our awkward, dramatic, unlikely fumbling toward the Divine. We see the rewards of leaving the comfort zone of one's own faith and of interfaith cooperation, the penalties for missing the signs of other seekers, and the ways all of us are Herod, all of us are the magi, and all of us long for power. As we ponder what gifts the Epiphany lays at our feet this year, perhaps we will consider what sorts of power we seek, and how we might be sure we do not fail to see the signs of God's new life born among us.

First Sunday after Epiphany—The Baptism of Jesus **Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, 10:00 am**

Jesus' baptism was, for him and all humanity, a "hinge event" – a moment when the nature of things changed forever. We might ask ourselves about hinge events in our lives, times when we crossed lines in the sand, and life felt changed forever. As we stand at a turning point for our congregation we can ask ourselves about what is our spiritual and theological line in the sand for this time.

NEW YEAR'S WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

January 5-12, 2014

January 5, 2014 Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Strategic Planning/Crossroads Leaders (LR/DR) 11:30 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)
Mother's Club-7:30 pm (LR)

Tuesday

Girl Scouts B&G Briggs 6:00 pm (Green)
CE Meeting 7:00 pm (LR)
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 pm--6:15 pm (FH)
Girl Scouts V. Petrelis (BC) 4:00 pm (BC)
(Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Strategic Planning —9:00 am (BC)
Spiritual Meeting —9:30 am (LR)
Youth Champions-5 pm (FH)
Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Girl Scout Leader Meeting—7 pm (BC)

Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;
8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)
Girl Scouts 7:00 pm (BC)

Saturday

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)
Yoga—9:00 am (FH)
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

January 12, 2014 Third Sunday after Christmas

Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am
Strategic Planning/Crossroads Leaders (LR/DR) 11:30 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: Brenda Briggs

Clerk: TBD

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