

# The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Palm Passion Sunday Worship

April 13, 2014

10:00 o'clock am



# **WELCOME**

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ is in a time of transformation as we seek God's direction for our future. We appreciate your patience with and your participation in our experimentation and exploration.

We want you to know that we extravagantly welcome all people; believers, non-believers, doubters, questioners, no matter who they love, their gender identity or expression, their race, culture, ability, or economic circumstance. All are a blessing to our journey of faith and we seek to share God's love and grace with all.

We pray that you might meet God here today—and connect with another seeking the same.

We invite you to participate in the acts of worship that work for you and
encourage you should you choose not to participate in others.

Prayers: Joys and concerns are often offered openly as an act of worship. Our pastor and deacons pray these requests through the week. You are also welcome to request prayer via the blue sheet in your bulletin, leaving it in the offering plate or with the pastor or a deacon.

# GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds —J.S. Bach

Welcome

Liturgy of the Palms Matthew 21:1-11 Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

\*Processional Hymn "All Glory Laud and Honor" # 216

Bev Cohen

The Palm Processional

# Responsive Reading (from Psalm 118)

One: Let us give thanks to God who is good.

All: God's love goes on forever!

One: Let us enter God's gates to offer praise and thanksgiving.

All: God's love goes on forever!

One: Let us thank God, who hears us and has come to save us.

All: God's love goes on forever!

One: Let us rejoice and be glad! This is the day that God has made!

All: God's love goes on forever!

One: Let us give thanks to God who is good.

All: God's love goes on forever!

<sup>\*</sup> Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

# **Time with Young Christians**

#### **Church Life and Mission**

# A Letter of Gratitude from Earth Tipi

# Choral AnthemHosanna! Sing Praises!/All Hail King Jesus

-Schrader and Moody

#### **Confession and Assurance**

Pulpit Side: We shout "Hosanna!"

Lectern Side: We cry "Crucify!"

Pulpit Side: We see a ruler.

Lectern Side: We watch a criminal.

Pulpit Side: We make a road of palms.

Lectern Side: We line a road to Calvary.

Pulpit Side: We proclaim our Messiah.

Lectern Side: We laugh at our God.

Pulpit Side: We will welcome Jesus.

Lectern Side: We will condemn him.

Pulpit Side: We will turn from him.

Lectern Side: We will never follow him.



Leader: It was a long week, a long march from the high gate of Jerusalem

to a forsaken place and a cross. Even longer from the praise of

"Hosanna!" to the blasphemy of "Crucify!" A long march for human kind: from the high point of crowning God's chosen one, to the depths of having him executed. A long, long walk through the fickleness and whims of humanity.

God lives with us still.

Pulpit Side: Forgive us, God. Lectern Side: Forgive us, God.

Leader: The scriptures proclaim that God's love goes on forever, through all the tragic

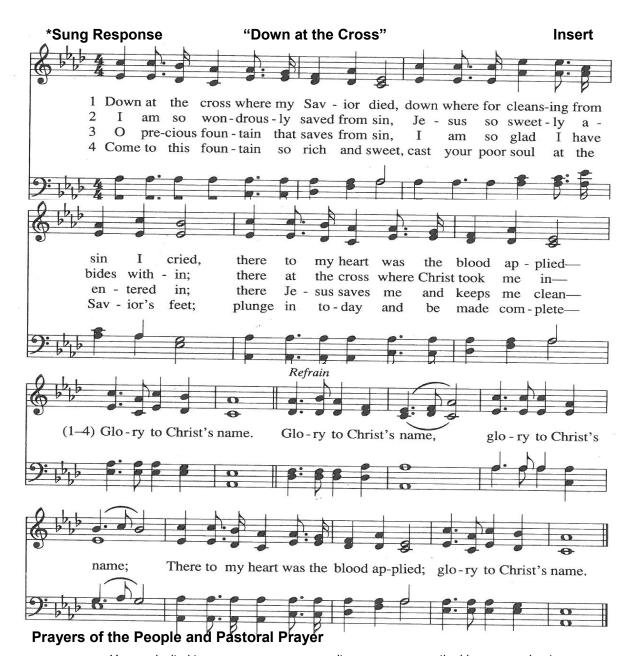
story of human wrong and misery. Be assured that, as Jesus forgave his

killers from the cross, so God forgives you. Go and sin no more.

All: Thanks be to God!

#### \*Passing of the Peace

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



You are invited to name your prayers or write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet.

# The Lord's Prayer (You are welcome to pray in the language most familiar to you)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

<sup>\*</sup> Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

# **Prayer for Illumination (Unison)**

Spirit, we are preparing to open the Scriptures. We want to hear from you as we read. We want to understand these living words and apply them to our lives. We believe that you can give us insight and understanding. Move in us and give us hearts that are open to the truth we will encounter. Let us be changed because we have engaged in the word of the Lord. Amen.

From the Bible

Philippians 2:5—11

Bev Cohen

# **Long Walk**



Words and music by Roddy Hamilton © 2003 Seasons of the Spirit

Images of the Passion

from Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Women

You are invited to sing "Long Walk" between each of the following reflections.

Woman with the Ointment

The Trial

At the Fire

In the Street

Golgotha

The Burial

Reflection

"It was on the Sunday"

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

#### Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory There is a Balm in Gilead My Lord What a Mornin'

—spiritual
—arr. Burleigh

Susan Allen, soloist

\*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

\*Hymn

"What Wondrous Love is This"

# 223

**Sending Forth** 

The way has begun.

This time next week the world will be different, but the journey has to be travelled.

Go now and walk in the shadow of the promise

with the God who has already walked and will walk again,

the same path, in the name of love.

It is a violent and disturbing week: the heart will be torn out of the universe,

but the promise is that it will beat again.

Go, and all heaven's peace be with you.

Amen.

Postlude Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

—Metzger



Everyone is encouraged to gather for Lunch and a Presentation immediately after worship—through the door to the right of the chancel.

Presented by the Strategic Planning and Crossroads Leadership Teams.

<sup>\*</sup> Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

# WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

# Sunday, April 13, 2014, Palm Sunday

Palms for Passersby—8:00-9:00 am

Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm
Palm Sunday Worship Service—10 am (Sanctuary)

All Church Meeting—Presenting "The Bold Decision" Recommendation (Barnes)
Palms for Passersby—12:30-1:00 pm (after worship/meeting)

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The Liturgist today is Bev Cohen.

Special thanks to additional Readers in our Holy Week Narratives.

Special thanks to Soloist, Susan Allen for her gifts.

The Deacon of the Month for April is Julie Roberts.

Leadership for Fellowship Hour for April is the Stewardship, Building & Grounds. with special thanks to those who brought goodies & Karen McCune Barca for this week's refreshments.

The Altar Flowers today are given by Ethel M. Winsor, in loving memory of her brother, Donald Pike.

The Lectern Flowers are given by Thelma Thompson, in loving memory of her mother, Emma.

#### **NO Wednesday Online Worship for Holy Week**

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Worship at 7:00 PM (Sanctuary)

With choir and soloist Susan Allen.

Sunday, April 20, 2014, Easter Sunday

Easter Pot Luck Breakfast—8:30 am (FH)

Easter Egg Hunt— 9:15 am (Front Lawn)

Easter Sunday Worship with Communion, Festival Choir—10 am (Sanctuary)

#### Online Wednesday Worship and Study:—7:00 pm

Nooma Film with /Rob Bell

#### Sunday April 27, Holy Hilarity Sunday!

Worship with Special Guest Preacher Rev. Wendy Vander Hart—10 am

Q&A Session after Fellowship Hour with Wendy Vander Hart and the CCWM Leadership Team to discuss recommendation for "The Bold Decision."

# THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

# Sunday, April 13, 2014, Palm Sunday

Palms for Passersby—8:00-9:00 am (High & Allston)
Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm
Palm Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Sanctuary)
All Church Meeting 11:30 am (Barnes)

Palms for Passersby—12:30-1:00 pm (High & Allston)

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel) 11:30 pm Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 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) Peer Group—10:00 am (LR) Yoga— 6:30 pm (FH)

#### Tuesday

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) Spiritual Direction—9:30 am (LR) Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

#### Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Maundy Thursday Worship—7:00 pm (Sanc)

#### **Friday**

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am; 8:15 am--9:00 am; 5:30 pm--6:15 pm (FH) Strategic Planning—9:30 am (LR) Church of God of Redemption—7:00 pm (Bean)

#### Saturday

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

# Sunday, April 20, 2014, Easter Sunday

Easter Pot Luck Breakfast 8:00 am (FH)
Easter Egg Hunt 9:15 am (Front Lawn)
Easter Sunday Worship Service 10 am (Sanctuary)

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel) 11:30 pm Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

Room Legend: (BC) Barnes Chapel; (Bean) Bean Chapel; (DR) Dining Room; (LR) Living Room; (YR) Youth Room

#### The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Co- Moderators: Paul Roberts & Rich Carle

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade
Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis
Deacon of the Month: Julie Roberts
Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org