

The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Easter Sunday Worship

April 20, 2014

10:00 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,



WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ is in a time of transformation as we move toward God's new direction for our ministry and our future. Thank you for your patience with and your participation in our experimentation and exploration.

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 of the People: In the interest of time today, we ask that you request your prayers on the blue prayer request sheet in your bulletin. Our pastor and deacons will pray these requests through the week. Please note if any requests are confidential.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering Music	<i>"Were You There?"</i>	—Spiritual
	<i>"On the Rise"</i>	—Kromm

Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

Prelude	<i>Christ is Arisen</i>	—Buttstedt
---------	-------------------------	------------

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

*Opening Hymn	"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"	# 233
	Stanza 1, 2 & 4	

Call to Worship

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

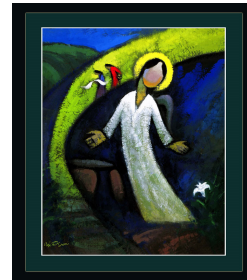
One: The shadows have gone and the day has dawned!
(Remove black cloth from the worship/sanctuary table.)

All: Alleluia!

One: The stone has been rolled away and Christ is alive!

All: Alleluia!

One: Our sorrow is turned to joy! (continued next page)



* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able -2-

All: Alleluia!

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Choral Anthem

"Forth He Came at Easter"

—Pote

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Karen McCune Barca , Kathy Williams, Ose Manheim

One: God of life, thank you for the night: for those who kept watch through its long hours; for the gift of sleep, and the refreshment of dreams; for your faithful presence that keeps us company when we are not aware of you;

All: Thank you, God of life!

Two: God of life, thank you for this new day: for the song of birds, the early morning bustle of city streets, and the brightening sky; for this day of all days when we celebrate the risen Christ;

All: Thank you, God of life!

Three: God of life, thank you for the message of Easter: for the affirmation of your steadfast love; for the presence of the One who overcame death; for the promise of life still to be revealed;

All: Thank you, God of life!

Choral Anthem

"Music of the Morning"

—Choplin

Confession and Assurance

One: God of life, creation shouts your presence,

All: but we do not always know where to find you.

Short time of silence.

Two: God of life, your Spirit is in all who love and do good,

All: but we do not always recognize you.

Short time of silence.

Three: God of life, your promises give us hope and confidence,

All: but we do not always understand or believe.

Short time of silence.

Words of affirmation

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

One: The God of love does not give us over to death but offers us life;
the Spirit of Jesus gives us a song of joy to sing.

All: We are witnesses to the life of the risen Christ! Alleluia!

***Passing of the Peace**

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



PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Children are invited forward to play percussion during the following sung response

Sung Response

"Halleluia"

—Caribbean Melody

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja, Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.

The Word with God's Beloved Children

Anthem

"Beautiful City"

—from Godspell

Emma Kromm, Soloist

Pastoral Prayer

You are invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet and pass them to the center aisle to be collected by a deacon.

One: God of life, we see resurrection all around us...

...Loving God,

All: may the stone be rolled away, releasing them to new life.

One: ...Loving God,

All: may the stone be rolled away releasing them to new life.

One: ...Loving God,

All: may the stone be rolled away releasing them to new life.

One: ...May we do our part to roll away the stone.



Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

From the Bible

Acts 10: 34—43

Bev Roche

Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection"

245

From the Gospel

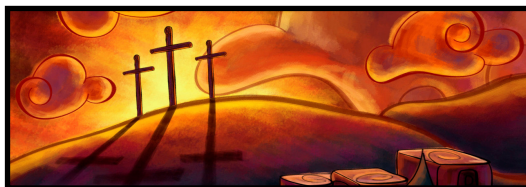
Matthew 28: 1—10

Bev Roche

Reflection

IT'S ABOUT LIFE

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade



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

-4-

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation (In Unison)

We believe in an Easter God who creates and re-creates, who gives abundant life and is with us through all that life may bring.

We believe in Christ of the Resurrection who appeared to his disciples and became present in a new way to those who follow him.

We believe in the Spirit foretold by Jesus who came with power and wonders who gives strength and consolation and empowers us. Amen.

Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

"And We Arise"

—Kromm

Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

*Procession of Gifts

*Easter Doxology

O Jesus, risen now to bless, do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise!

*Prayer of Dedication

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy Communion

All are welcome. In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

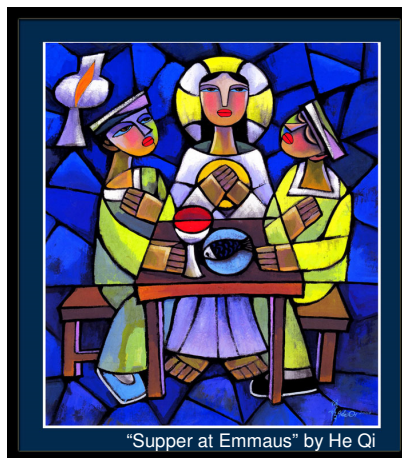
Children of all ages, at the discretion of their parents/ guardians are invited and encouraged.

The Invitation to the Banquet

Eucharistic Prayer

One: Jesus – companion and Saviour...
...Great God of resurrection, bringing life
from death, light from shadows,
adventures from question,
authenticity from lies, we sing with all the angels,

(continued next page)



All: *Holy, holy, holy God of new and transforming life
heaven and earth are full of your glory
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name, O God:
hosanna in the highest.*

One: May our living be our thanksgiving...

Words of Institution

One: We remember...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

One: Come now, Spirit and creating God: Knead this bread into the body of Christ among us...Remembering his supper with those who traveled with him.

All: *Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

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.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Resurrection Acclamation

One: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

All: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

Sharing the Elements

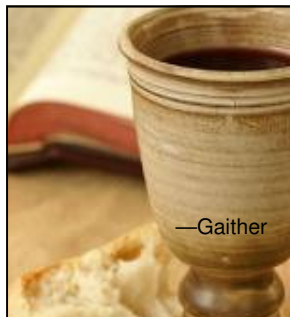
Anthem

"Because He Lives"

Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Refreshed and renewed, O Christ, we emerge from communion with you, no longer broken by our confusion and fear. We are now living loaves reshaped by your grace and forgiveness. We are now fresh-flowing wine, ready to be poured out in celebration of your life-giving Spirit. We are whole once again and we praise you for the transformation. Through Jesus the Christ, our living and risen Lord, we pray. Amen



***Closing Hymn**

"Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

230

Stanza 1—3

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

Blessing and Benediction

One: Now that morning has come

All: **and the dawn has broken the darkness.**

One: Now that the stone has rolled

All: **and set free the life.**

One: Now that Christ is risen

All: **let us go**

One: not quietly, not gently

All: **but with a great alleluia**

One: that lets the world know

All: **life says “Yes!”**

One: And now may the Christ who has risen, the God who sets free,
and the Spirit who rolls stones, be with us and go with us all into this world
as we sing Hallelujah, Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen Indeed!



Response

“Hallelujah Chorus”

—Handel

All are encouraged to come forward to sing—music is available for all.

Postlude

My Spirit Be Joyful

—J.S. Bach

THE BEAUTIFUL EASTER PLANTS DECORATING OUR SANCTUARY HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY



Gail Airasian in honor of the next generation
Gail Airasian in gratitude for the preceding generation
The Disciullo Family celebrating grandchildren, Sophie and Joseph
The DiSciullo Family honoring parents Marlene, George, Guidot, & Katherine
Carolyn Epps honoring parents Mildred L. and Andrew M. Williams
The Luongo Family honoring Doris and Clyde Shackson
The Luongo Family honoring Joe Luongo, Sr.
Karen McCune-Barca honoring the McCunes and Souzas
Evalyn O'Rourke honoring Loved Ones
Paul and Julie Roberts Family honoring Loved Ones
The Roche Family honoring Loved Ones
The Wescott Family honoring Joyce Conlan

...with special thanks to Brenda Briggs for her faithful flower ministry.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today, 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)

~~~

**The Altar Flowers today are given by Brenda Briggs in memory of her friend, Marie Epps.**

***Special thanks to:***

The Liturgist: Bev Roche and other worship participants.

Guest Musicians: Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

Trumpet Players: Spencer Petitti and Jonathan Remy;

Guest Nursery Care: Dorothy Eckstein, Temple Shalom Medford.

Julie Roberts our Pot Luck organizer and all who brought our delicious breakfast.

Jenny Briggs for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt.

Karen McCune Barca for-ever being the set-up and clean-up maven.

Sexton, Steve Smith for his faithful presence.

The Deacon of the Month for April is Julie Roberts.

No Fellowship Hour today.

**NO Wednesday Online worship this week, April 23.**

Rev. Wendy is taking a reduced work week to recover!

Our Online Wednesday Worship and Study will resume, Wednesday April 30, 7 pm; with the Rob Bell Nooma Film entitled “Trees.” This discussion will help us to think about living a life (and having a faith) that is not about that “someday” when I go to heaven, but is about life that has meaning and purpose today! The Kingdom of God—right now, right here.

**Sunday April 27, Holy Hilarity Sunday!**

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

We will consider the story of Thomas who seeks evidence of Jesus’ resurrection.

Worship will be followed by an open Q&A Session during Fellowship Hour

with Wendy Vander Hart and the CCWM Leadership Team

to discuss our recommendation for “The Bold Decision.”

***Contact information and the full calendar can be located on the back of the “Reporter” and via [www.medfordchurch.org](http://www.medfordchurch.org)***