

The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Third Sunday of Eastertide

May 4, 2014

Worship at North Prospect Union with Holy Communion 5:00



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: 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. Please note if any requests are confidential.

FOR REFLECTION

Emmaus

On that day of rain—I walked with You, Seeing but not seeing—You in wet trees,
Hearing but not hearing—You In the symphony of water sounds



Played by a flooded stream.
You were everywhere and yet closer
Than the sanctuary of my umbrella
Closer than a misted breath.
I didn't need to ask who You were
For my heart burned with recognition.
Fearing that I would lose You, I
cried, "Oh Lord, come home with me!"
You smiled through the dancing rain,
The puddles, the grey fence posts,
And You whispered,
"Ah! I am already there."

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Awake and Sing

—Scheidt

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

*Opening Hymn

“Yours is The Glory”

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*Call to Worship

Julie Roberts

You are invited to remain standing and embody the Call to Worship with motion.

One: Friends of God, we come into the presence of God to be stilled in heart
(cross hands over heart).

We come to be inspired through imagination
(cross hands over forehead).

With believing hands we reach out to receive
(cup hands in front of body).

With eyes opened to new perspectives
(extend cupped hands outward and cast vision outwards)

we will learn how to live in the free and spirited ways of Christ
(lift hands up over head, then down to the side; one at a time)

Connecting with God

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Preparing our Hearts

“The Peace of the Earth”

—Iona

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too
The peace of the rivers be with you the peace of the oceans too
Deep peace, falling over you; God’s peace, gro-o-wing in you.

Invitation and Prayer of Confession

One: When all seems lost and circumstances leave us feeling empty and afraid;
God of unwavering hope,

All: ***may your words of life burn within our hearts.***
(silent reflection)

One: When trust seems impossible and our eyes remain tightly closed to the
constant breaking in of Spirit; God of unwavering faith,

All: ***may your words of life burn within our hearts.***
(silent reflection)

One: When our spirits feel dry and listless, where hurt or resentment creates
barriers to human care and friendship, where fear keeps us from offering

hospitality to others, and judgment keeps us from meeting you
in one another; God of unwavering love,

All: may your words of life burn within our hearts.

Silence

***Words of Assurance of God's Presence and Forgiveness**

One: Fellow travellers, alive to God's constant word of faith, hope, and love, may
we journey into life in new ways. May we take to heart God's gift of
presence, peace, and forgiveness. Receive it gladly. Live it with passion
and boldness. Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Passing of the Peace**

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

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

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

Prayers of the People

Our worship includes an open prayer time today.

*You are also invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet in your bulletin and
place them in the offering plate later in the service. Please note if confidential.*

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

***We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the wisdom of holy scripture.
Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our
awareness, and challenge our assumptions. Bless we pray, our hearing of
your Word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by
the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your Word. Amen.***

From the Bible

Luke 24:13—35

Julie Roberts

Response

"Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

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Sermon

EMMAUS ROAD EVANGELISM

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

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

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RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation (In Unison)

Julie Roberts

We believe in God, whose love for us never lets us go.
We believe in Jesus Christ, whose life of love we strive to follow.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who makes God's love known to us.
We believe in the church, where we gather to pray, to praise, to serve ... and to try again. We believe in the grace of God, which enables us to be a people of hope, joy, service and love. Amen.

Offering

Julie Roberts

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory *Because He Lives*

—Gaither/Weiss

*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 to celebrate communion.*

The Invitation to the Banquet

One: What kind of God is this who is seen and known in the breaking of bread?

**All: *What kind of God might it be who journeys deep
within shared suffering into joy?***

One: A God of embodied love...

Words of Institution and Eucharistic Prayer

One: Aware that our eyes...

(Break the bread and pour the cup.)

...as he says to us now, "Do this in remembrance of me."

Open our eyes. Open our hands.

Free our hearts to see and respect your presence in all and through all.

**All: We will respond with gratitude, joy, and grace.
We will give our lives to the promise of Love
always rising up in our midst. May it fully be so.**

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.

Sharing the Elements

Hymn

"Jesus Is Here Right Now"

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Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Hosting God, we give you thanks—for you are ever faithful and your love endures forever. Thank you for meeting us on the road and at this table—our hearts are burning even now with the grace and nourishment you offer to all. Help us to welcome the stranger as a guest and allow us to be like Jesus in our hospitality. As we leave this worship, may the love and unity that we feel here travel with us in our daily lives, that others may come to know you for having seen your presence in us.

***Closing Hymn**

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'm gonna live so God can use me, any time Lord, any where. (X2)

I'm gonna work so God can use me, any time Lord, any where. (X2)

I'm gonna pray so God can use me, any time Lord, any where. (X2)

I'm gonna sing so god can use me, any time Lord, any where. (X2)

Benediction

Postlude

Andante

—Schubert



**All are invited to a brief time of fellowship, refreshment and conversation
on the lower level.**

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

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today Sunday, May 4—No Worship at 10:00 am
Third Sunday of Eastertide Worship, with Holy Communion
5:00 PM at North Prospect Union UCC: 144 North Street, Medford

Our exploration continues with worship at our sister congregation on North Street. This third Sunday of Eastertide presents us with the Emmaus Road appearance of Jesus to two disciples. Jesus is first a stranger, then a guest and finally becomes the host in this powerful call to extravagant hospitality. It is a great lesson for us as we consider the call on our hearts to love our neighbor and care for the least of these.

Rev. Wendy will be preaching and we will plan a brief fellowship time after worship.

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***We celebrate the gift and beauty of the perpetual flowers on the altar.***

***Special thanks to:***

The Liturgist: Julie Roberts

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

The Deacon of the Month for May is Karen McCune Barca (karenmccunebarca@gmail.com).

**Wednesday, May 7th, Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm; via Fuze meeting**  
**<http://fuze.me/23459647>**

Our Online Worship and Study this Wednesday with the Rob Bell Nooma Film entitled “Kickball.” This film asks the question: “If God really cares about us, why don’t we have what we want?” Hmm. Is it easier to want what is in front of us than to trust that God might know better?

**Next Sunday, May 11—Mother’s Day, Good Shepherd Sunday Worship at 10:00 am**  
**Fourth Sunday of Eastertide Worship with Baptism of Meckenzie Burke-Hutchinson**

The Theme of Worship is “Living in Community”: If we do not let Easter change our manner of living one might wonder, was it worth it? How can we as Easter people change the world through the way we live each day? Rev. Wendy will be preaching and the Burke-Hutchinson family will host a time of fellowship after worship.

**Wednesday, May 14, 2014 CCWM Joint Ministry Meeting (LR)**

**Worship 7:00—7:30 pm**

**Meeting 7:30—9:00 pm**

**Save the Date: June 8,—11:00 am**

**Shared Blue Grass Worship and Barbeque with North Prospect Union**

**THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH**  
**Sunday May 4 , Third Sunday of Eastertide**  
**NO WORSHIP AT 10 am**

**Worship at North Prospect Union with Holy Communion—5:00 pm**

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  
MBA-UCC Spring Meeting, Molly Baskette Keynote Speaker—2:30 pm (Needham UCC)

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—6:30pm (FH)  
Mothers Club—7:30 pm (LR)

Tuesday

Girls Scouts w Briggs—6:00 pm (Green)  
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)  
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)  
On Line Worship/Study—7:00 pm (Fuze Meeting)  
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Spiritual Direction—5:30 pm (LR)  
Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)  
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)

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—9:30 am (FH)  
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

**Sunday May 11, Mother's Day Sunday of Eastertide**

**Worship and Baptism for Meckenzie Burke-Hutchinson 10 am**

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  
Faith Formation/Confirmation Class—to attend MBA-UCC Meeting

*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: Karen McCune Barca

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org