

The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 7, 2014 at 10 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,



WELCOME

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

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

***Opening Song**

**“God is Here!”
“As We Your People Meet”**

70

Call to Worship

Beverly Cohen

One: We gather here, where God would teach us:

**All: so we may learn to be more compassionate,
so we may be taught how to be more loving.**

One: We gather here, where Jesus would teach us

**All: the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge,
the language of hope so we may speak to all.**

One: We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,

**All: so we might know how to share grace,
so we would learn to welcome all to this Table.**

Connecting with God

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Invitation

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

-2-

Preparing our Hearts

“Lord Prepare Me
to Be a Sanctuary”

—Thompson/Scruggs

Stanzas 1, 2, and repeat 1.

$\text{♩} = 60$

D/A Em/A D A

1. Lord pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
- pow'r me to be a wit - ness for you, act - ing

G Em7 D/A A A7

ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks -
bold - ly, in your name; seek - ing

D A

-giv - ing, I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu -
jus - tice, where there is hurt - ing off - 'ring

G Em7 A7 D D/A Em/A D

1. ar - y for you. 2. God em -
hope where there is pain.

Words (verse 1) and Music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs
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Words (verse 2); Scott A. Resman, Copyright ©2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

One: All you ask of us is to love one another, God of our lives, and you are more than willing to teach us how.

All: **Yet we find this simple request so hard to carry out, this easy lesson so difficult to learn. Someone cuts us off in traffic, and we curse them. Another buys something we want but cannot afford, and we overflow with jealousy. A friend gets the acclaim we wanted, and we whisper about them behind their backs. Forgive us, Merciful God, and unclasp our hands from our grudges. With Christ in our midst, we can become the people your dream about: loving, merciful, gentle, and compassionate people of God.**

Silence

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

One: 2, 3, 30, or 300 - we have gathered as God's people: broken, we are made whole; alone, we are welcomed into a family; forgiven, we are sent to serve.

All: Fed, forgiven, restored, loved. This Table is our constant reminder of God's presence in our lives, of God's grace which makes us new in every moment. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

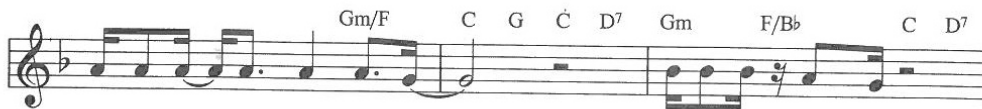
Sung Celebration

Somebody Prayed for Me

—Darling/Norwood



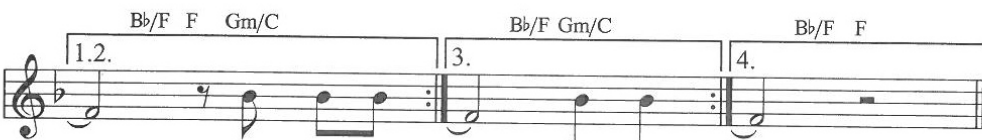
1. Some - bod - y prayed for me, had me on their mind,
 prayed for me, had me on her* mind,
 prayed for me, had me on her mind,
 prayed for me! Had me on his mind,



took the time and prayed for me... I'm so glad they prayed,
 took the time and prayed for me... I'm so glad she* prayed,
 took the time and prayed for me... I'm so glad she prayed,
 took the time and prayed for me... I'm so glad he prayed,



I'm so glad they prayed, I'm so glad they prayed for me.
 I'm so glad she* prayed, I'm so glad she* prayed for me.
 I'm so glad she prayed, I'm so glad she prayed for me.
 I'm so glad he prayed, I'm so glad he prayed for me.



— 2. The preach-er — 4. Je - sus —
 — 3. My moth - er —

*Use his/he as appropriate.

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

By Alvin Darling and Dorothy Norwood
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PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination (In Unison)

Thoughts. Ideas. Tasks we have to do. People we need to see. Things we meant to say. All this and more swirls around in our minds as we sit in this place. As we sit quietly, so quiet our minds, O God. Help us to let go of all that floats around in our heads, and let us, instead, grab hold of what your word has to say to us this day. Amen.

From the Bible

Matthew 18: 15—20

Beverly Cohen

Sermon

GYROSCOPIC GRACE

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Hymn

“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”

337

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.

Offering

Beverly Cohen

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

*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

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Feast

Communion Prayers

One: Why have we gathered here?

All: *We come because we have been called to live out a story.*

One: What story shall we live?

All: *The story of saving love.*

One: Where did this story begin?

All: *It was whispered before time began, it was sung in the melody of Creation.*

One: Whose story is this?

All: *This story is God's alone to tell. It hums in the rivers and the trees. It whispers in the skies and the seas. It calls to the people of all places. It speaks in our hearts, in our lives.*

One: Why then should we speak of this story?

All: *This story calls our name in Creation. This story claims our lives through the Cross. This story shapes our future through the Spirit. We are its telling in this time and this place.*

One: So tell me the story of this night, of this table.

All: *The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it. (Taking and breaking bread.)*

One: Tell me what he said and did.

All: *This is my body which is broken for you. Do this and remember me.*

One: Tell me what he said and did. (Taking and pouring cup.)

All: *In the same way, he took the cup and said, This is a new covenant in my blood. Drink it and remember me.*

One: This is our common story, our deep memory, our true destiny; so let it also be our storytelling, our testimony. Let's celebrate the way that grace has shaped our lives. I invite you to say aloud a prayer of thanks. (Pause.)

Please speak aloud your prayer of gratitude

One: Hear the storytellers of all ages whisper with us.

All: *Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed in the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

One: What is our prayer on this day?

All: *Show us with your Spirit, here and now, so this common meal becomes a life-giving celebration. May our eating and drinking this day bind us to Christ, whose body and blood are given for us. May we know that you live in us and that we live in you, so that we live in your world, knowing it is indeed yours.*

One: Living God, this is our prayer...the prayer that Jesus taught us

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 Bread and Cup

*This meal of love and grace is open to all who wish to participate.
Gluten Free Crackers are available and the cup is filled with grape juice.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for life in the spirit of Jesus: for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion—oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In the name of Love, we pray. Amen.

Closing Song

“Great is Your Faithfulness”

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Benediction

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today, Sunday Sept. 7—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship

With Holy Communion

We celebrate the perpetual beauty of the altar flowers.

Special thanks today to:

Our Liturgist for today’s worship: Beverly Cohen

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

The Deacon of the Month for September is Julie Roberts (heronjulie@yahoo.com)

OUR LEAVETAKING CONTINUES

Sunday, September 14, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship

A Journey of our Traditions and our Faith through the Stained Glass Windows.

11:15 am—Congregational Meeting to Vote on New Name

Sunday, September 21, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship

Remembering our Joys, celebrating our past and Praying our Goodbyes.

12:00 pm—Medford Community Day

Sunday, September 28, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time—10:00 am Worship

Our ministry at 400 High Street comes to a close as we take our leave and process to the new ministry center at 458 High Street, taking with us symbols of our past that will sustain our future and arriving to celebrate our new beginning. A “party” will ensue!!!

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

**Today, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost—10:00 am Worship
Holy Communion**

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm

Church of God Redemption-Rev. Lucien Nere (Bean Chapel)—11:30 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)
Spiritual Direction—9:30 am (LR)
Yoga—6:30 pm (FH)

Tuesday

Gamblers Anonymous—7:00 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)
CCWM Joint Ministry—7:00 pm (DR)
AA—8:00 pm (Youth)

Thursday

Wedding Rehearsal —7:00 pm (Sanctuary)

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 Team—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)
Wedding Annarita Mangino—4 pm (Sanctuary)

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 & Bruce Roberts

Treasurer: Amanda Coughlin

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month for September is Julie Roberts

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org