

Sanctuary | United Church of Christ

The Congregational Church of West Medford

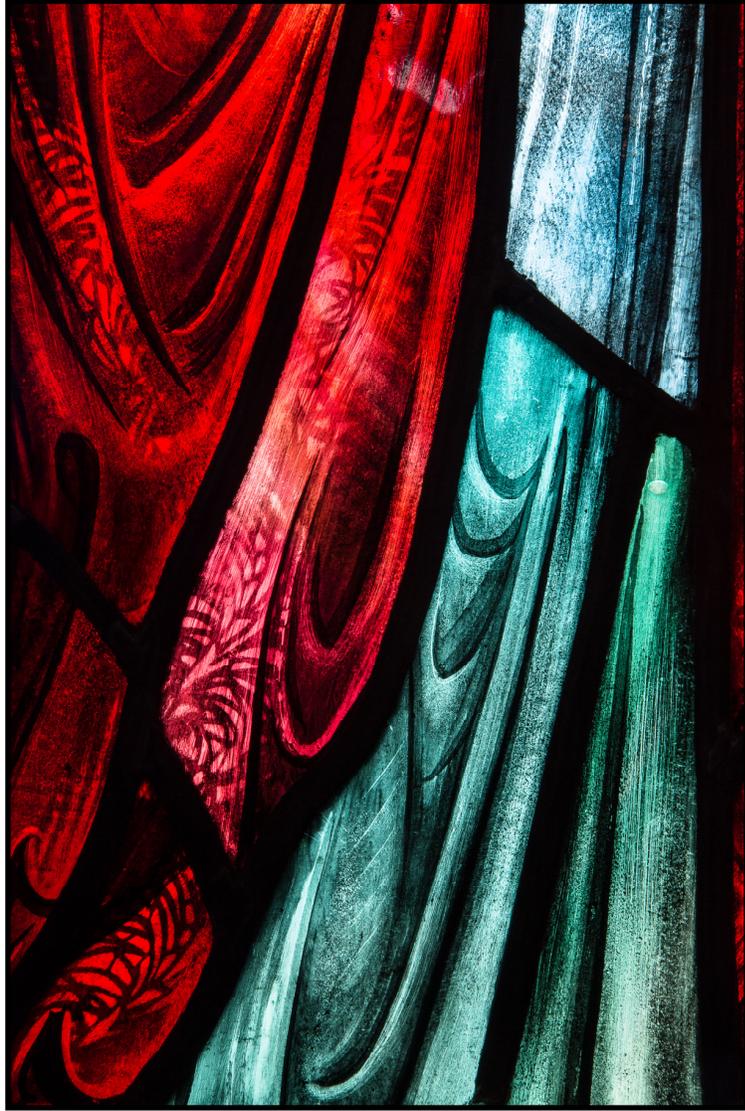
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Twenty Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

September 29, 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

Toccata in B minor

—J. S. Bach

Welcome, Church Life and Mission

***Opening Song “God is Here! As We Your People Meet” # 70**

Declaration of Purpose

Call to Worship

One: God, whose creative glory we see in the rushing wind and the swirling waters,

All: *and whose love is revealed in the smile of a child, will remain with us.*

One: God, whom we have discovered in the scriptures, and who has discovered us,

All: *and who comes clear to us in Jesus and in the lives of the saints, will remain with us.*

One: God, whom we encounter in the worship and service of faith communities,

All: *whose Spirit is within the pastoral caring and the justice-seeking of this church, will remain with us.*

One: God, gracefully known in the hard places of our earthly life's journey,

All: *and who laughs and celebrates joyfully with us here, will remain with us.*

One: God, who will be with us as this life ends,

All: *who is with us in time and beyond time, will remain with us.*

One: Let us worship our loving and faithful God.

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

-2-

The Word from the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures

Words of certainty from the apostle Paul:

Neither death, nor life...nor things present, nor things to come...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38–39)

Words of compassion from the psalmist:

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

Words of adventure from Genesis:

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you...I will bless you, and make your name great.” (Genesis 12:1–2)

Words of thanksgiving from a gospel writer:

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God...He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. (Luke 17:15–16)

**All: *The words of scripture are good words for us, words we can trust.
We thank God for God’s eternally relevant Word. Amen.***

Preparation

“Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

—Thompson/Scruggs

♩ = 60

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

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

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

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

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Litany of Thanksgiving

One: (Chancel): The baptismal font, the communion table, the pulpit, this whole worship space, enable us to thankfully remember the countless services of worship and sacraments celebrated in this place, and to bring to mind the ministers and lay leaders who have led worship.

(time of silent remembering)

One: For this worship space, Loving God,

All: We give you thanks.

One: (Pews): These pews/chairs and the worshippers here today are reminders of the congregations who have gathered over the years for Sunday worship, for the baptism of babies, to mourn the dead and create new families through marriage. We remember the grace of vows of love and honor, of sermons preached with power and passion, of missionaries being sent to serve, of transitions and confirmations and other celebrations that have taken place here.

(time of silent remembering)

One: For worshippers over the years, Loving God,

All: We give you thanks.

One: (Church School Symbols): The spirit of our founder Rachael Barnes, the lap top which gives us access to Forming Faith.Net, crafts, curriculum, Christmas pageant costumes already moved down the street—all are reminders of the hundreds of students who over the years have begun their Christian journey in this place.

(time of silent remembering)

One: For wonder-full young persons, Loving God,

All: We give you thanks.

One: (Kitchen Symbols): This book of directions for how to set up the suppers, this coffee urn, and this box of coffee hour supplies bring to mind the many happy times of eating, learning, and working together.

(time of silent remembering)

One: For a caring and giving fellowship, Loving God,

All: We give you thanks.

One: There may be inaction that has held you back, there may be apathy that has bound you in the sale of this church building and the changes proposed for the future.

All: *We let our apathy and inaction go, we are ready to work with new Christian friends in a new situation.*

One: There may be a sense of “What might have been,” that you have clung to, a reluctance to face the realities of the faith community.

All: *We let the old possibilities go, we are ready to grasp fresh possibilities as members of another faith community.*

One: There may be a clinging to familiar patterns of worship, a clinging to familiar ways of serving in the community.

All: *We let our patterns go, we are ready to serve with new friends in new ways.*

We will now have two minutes of silent reflection.

During this time you may offer God the feelings, emotions, and attitudes that you wish to let go. We trust God will accept them and deal gracefully with them.

A word about the cleansing power of salt.

One: Feelings have burned hot and strong among the members of this faith community.

All: *The cooling Spirit of God’s peace is among us now. Amen.*

Words of Assurance

One: God hears our deepest feelings of heart and mind and spirit and has heard you this morning.

All: *We will continue to offer ourselves and out true feelings as we let go of this faith community. God will continue to listen to us.*

One: God will go with you in your new ventures of life and faith, God is eternally to be trusted. God’s peace, which passes all knowledge and understanding, will be your peace.

All: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

Prelude in D flat

—Chopin

***Procession of Gifts**

All are invited to a celebration and brunch in our new home:

Sanctuary, United Church of Christ

458 High Street

Songs for the Journey:

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Somebody Prayed for Me

Somebody prayed for me
Had me on his mind
Took the time to pray for me
I'm so glad he prayed,
I'm so glad he prayed,
I'm so glad he prayed for me.

The preacher prayed...

My mother prayed...

My father prayed...

My sister prayed...

My brother prayed...

Dear Jesus prayed...

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Every where I go...

All through the night...

All around the world...

Holy Communion

Communion Prayers

Sharing the Meal

Hymn

“Let us Break Bread Together”

330

Let us break bread together on our knees, (X2)

When I fall on my knees with my face to the shining sun, Oh Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together...

Let us praise God together...

Commissioning our New Home

One: God remains with us,

All: *Though we let go of our cherished place and our former name,*

One: God remains with us,

All: *Though we sing new songs and worship in new ways.*

One: God remains with us,

All: *Though we serve in different ways and pursue different causes.*

One: God remains with us,

All: *Though we find new friends and create a new congregation by being Sanctuary.*

One: God's love remains with us,

All: *God's justice will inspire us, God's realm will call us to action.*

One: God is eternally for you and with you.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

Please help yourself to brunch and find a seat
and we will share prayers and blessings .

Prayers of the People

For what shall we pray?

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.

Blessing and Benediction

God of Ruth, the adventurer,

Be with us.

God of Jesus, fearless and faithful one,

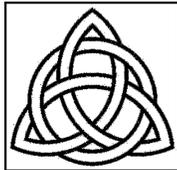
Be with us.

Holy Spirit, forming and reforming faith community,

Be with us.

Hymn

"Your Choice"



WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

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!!!

Sunday, October 5—10:00 am Worship

Sunday, October 12—10:00 am Worship

Sunday, October 19—10:00 am Worship

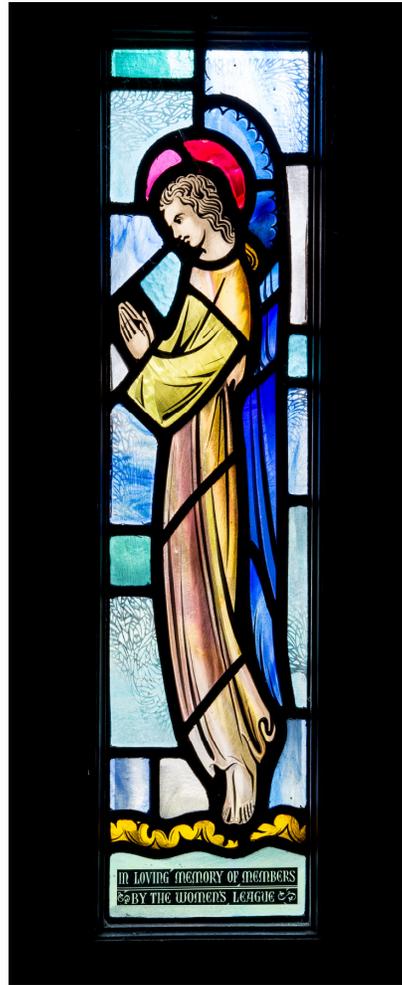
@ 458 High Street

Sunday, October 26—11:00 am Worship

@ North Prospect Union

144 North Street, Medford

The Rev. Keith Titus, founder of ReMember— Preaching



**Sanctuary United Church of Christ
The Congregational Church of West Medford,**

Ministers: All of us!

Organist: 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

458 High St. Medford, MA 02155
office@medfordchurch.org, 781-395-3360
Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org

www.medfordchurch.org
www.sanctuaryucc.org
www.formingfaith.NET