

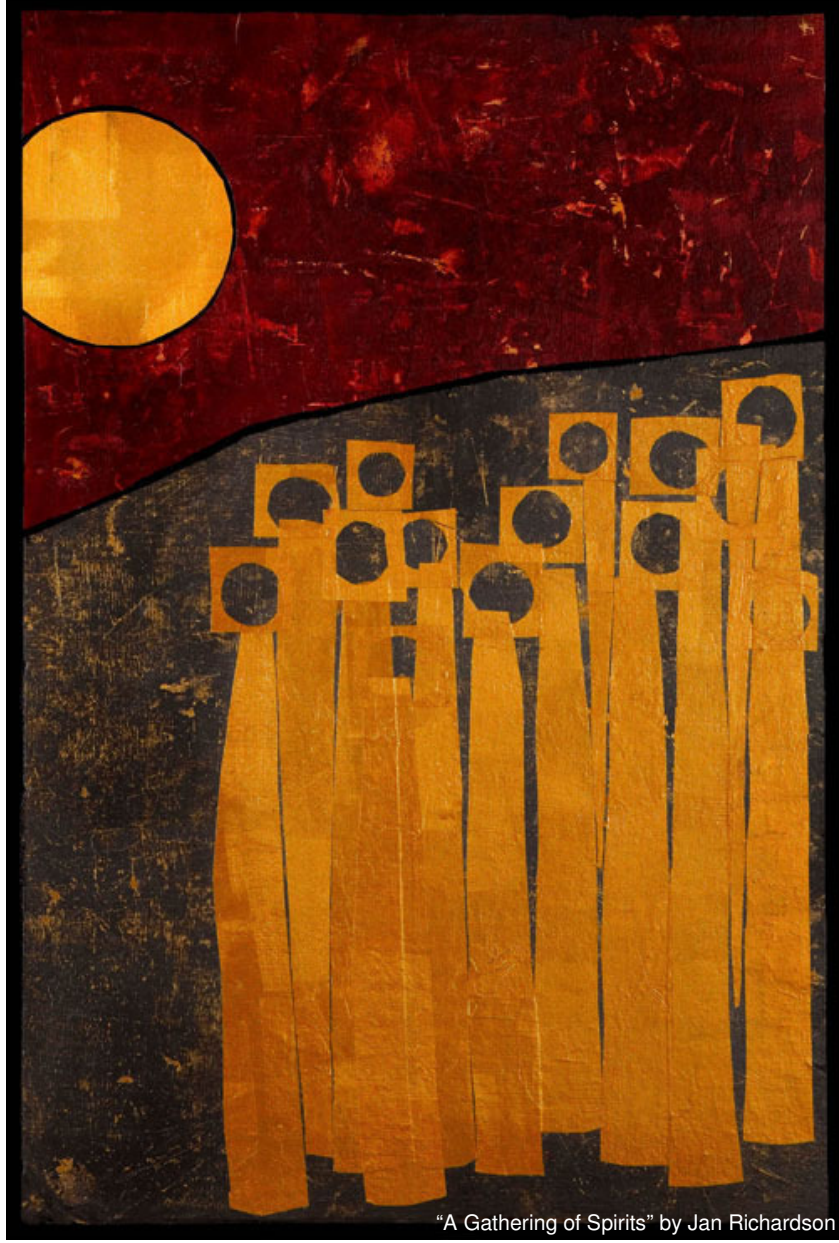
The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

All Saints Sunday

November 03, 2013

10:00 o'clock am



"A Gathering of Spirits" by Jan Richardson

For Reflection

As you gather for worship this morning, imagine yourself in a crowd of people waiting to catch a glimpse of a well-known public figure. Is it Archbishop Desmond Tutu? President Barack Obama? a favourite movie star? a national hero? David Ortiz?

People around you shift and press against you in an attempt to reach a prime location for photographs and a chance handshake. If you were a child, you could climb on an adult's shoulders for a better look.

You wait with great anticipation, wondering if this person will measure up to your expectations; wondering how an encounter with this one might leave you both changed.

The story of Zacchaeus embodies expectation, anticipation, and transformation. The tree branch in our worship center today symbolizes the gathering of community in worship, a time when we expect to encounter the Holy in and around us.

As you arrive this morning, I invite you to write your name on the paper hand in the bulletin and come forward to hang it on a branch.

Take your place among the saints!

WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ, is a community that strives to live according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to share in the costs and joys of discipleship. We unconditionally welcome and affirm people of every age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race, culture, ability, and economic circumstance, and invite everyone into full participation in our church life and ministry.

If you're visiting for the first time, feel uncertain about church, find yourself here infrequently, or attend weekly, there's a place for you here. There are many ways to be involved and if you'd like to know more about our many activities, please speak to a greeter or the pastor.

**We ask that you wear a name tag to help us know each other.
Blank name tags are available by the door for anyone in need.**

Please be sure to sign the Pew Register which you will find on the center aisle.

As an act of prayer, you are encouraged to light a candle on the table at the front of the sanctuary—for yourself, for a loved one, for peace, for the world.

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

Priere

— Franck

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Jenna Nackel

One: Open our hearts and minds to receive you in a new way
We come into community ready for Spirit's presence among us.

All: *Open our hearts and minds to receive you in a new way.*

One: We come into this sacred space ready to worship.

All: *Open our hearts and minds to receive you in a new way.*

One: We come into a place of challenge and grace ready for your word.

All: *Open our hearts and minds to receive you in a new way.*

If you have not had the chance to write your name on a paper hand and hang it on the tree branch, please do so during the opening hymn.

*Gathering Song

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

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Opening Prayer

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

-3-

A Time of Confession

Invitation

Bless the Lord

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 78. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with some chords and a treble line with chords and some melodic movement.

Music: J. Berthier
© Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, F-71250 Taizé-Communauté

Prayers of Confession

Our confession this morning comes from Jesus Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:21—31).

One: Hear the words of Jesus...
Every tree is known by the fruit it bears.
Bless the Lord My Soul...

All: *We welcome you more fully into our lives.
May our living be shaped by your words.
Bless the Lord My Soul...*

Silence

***The Good News of God's Grace and Presence**

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Choir Anthem

"The Gift of Love"

— arr. Hopson

Time with Young Christians

Children are invited to go to Sunday School during the following hymn

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Hymn "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" # 325
Stanza 1 & 2

Church Life and Mission

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

One: God in your mercy *All: Hear our prayer*

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.

From the Bible Luke 19:1—10 Jenna Nackel

Sermon SURPRISING ENCOUNTERS Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade
SURPRISING GIFTS

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Hymn "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" # 325
Stanza 3 & 4

*Offering Jenna Nackel

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory *Devotion* —Mendlessohn

*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

*Procession of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*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.
The bread is gluten free and the cup is filled with grape juice.*

Invitation to Communion

* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able -5-

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them to God.*

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: *It is good to give God thanks and praise.*

One: It is always good to give thanks to God...we are God's children.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

One: Many other people have gone before us...
...especially precious in our hearts this day:

We name aloud those we remember...

One: We pray for these and all those whom we remember in the silence of our hearts: *(pause in silence)*

One: We are part of the communion of saints:

All: *Thanks be to God.*

One: Like others who have gone before us...serve you as the Body of Christ.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

One: God sent Jesus to share our life...we seek to be more like Jesus each day.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

One: With his words and actions Jesus taught us...we are holy – we are saints.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Blessing and Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with spiritual food and drink, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this sacrament may be for us a comfort in sorrow, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sadness nor tears, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“For All The Saints”

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Blessing and Sending

Postlude

Second Kyrie

—Raison



A time of fellowship and conversation will be held immediately after worship in Barnes Chapel—exit the Sanctuary through the door to the left of the pulpit.

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

*Nursery Care is provided during the worship 'hour'.
Sunday School is offered today for school aged children..*

Today, Sunday, November 3, 2013, Memorial Sunday

Celebrating All Saints and All Souls Day—remembering those who have gone before us

Worship with Holy Communion: 10:00 am

Pine Ridge Planning Conversation: 11:30 am (LR)

MBA UCC Fall Meeting, at United Parish of Auburndale: 2:30—5:00 pm

Youth Faith Formation/Confirmation: 4:00—6:00 pm (LR)

The Liturgist today is Jenna Nackle.

, Deacon of the Month for November is Kathy Williams.

We celebrate the gift and beauty of the altar flowers, given by Jean Hinds-Johnson in loving memory of Dr. Charles and Amy Bean.

All Saints Day invites us to gaze forward to the time when God's promises to all who believe will be fulfilled. It is also an opportunity for us to remember all those loved ones, all those saints who have passed away and joined the Communion of Saints. We will name our loved ones an ring a bell in their honor as we gather around the table of grace.

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**Next Sunday, November 10, 2013, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Worship: 10:00 am**

**All Church Conversation about the Future: 11:30 am (Barnes Chapel)**

**Youth Faith Formation/Confirmation: 4:00—6:00 PM (LR)**

Paul writes to the struggling church in Thessalonica where times were tough and they were persecuted by non-believers. (Sound familiar?) He encourages them, as we are invited—to turn to

God, recall God's purpose, stand firm in faith, and care for one another in God's love. As we face our future as a faith community, as uncertain as it may be, we can choose to live with faith and compassion. We can encourage one another with God's promises. So, where do we turn

when life is difficult? What gives us courage to hold on to faith?

How might we share this hope with others?

## THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

**November 3 - 9, 2013**

November 3, 2013 Thirty-first Sunday After Pentecost

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Pine Ridge Meeting for 2014 After Worship Service

Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

Faith Formation/Confirmation Class — 4:00 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)

Yoga—6:30 pm FH

Seaside Production Rehearsal— 7:30 pm (BC)

### Tuesday

Girl Scouts (Briggs) —6:30 pm (Grn Rm)

CE Meeting— 7:00 pm (LR)

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 p--6:15 pm (FH)

Spiritual Direction Visit — 10:00 am (LR)

Girl Scouts (V. Petrelis)— 4:00 pm (BC)

Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

### Thursday

Spiritual Direction —5:45pm (LR)

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

### Friday

(3) Boot Camp Sessions: 5:45 am--6:15 am;  
8:15 am-- 9:00 am (FH)

Girl Scouts (O'Rourke) —7:00 pm (BC)

Coffee House: Gould Farm — 6:00 pm (FH)

Boston Urban Outreach Project

via City Mission Society Program— 3:00 pm

### Saturday

Yoga —9:00 am (FH)

Alanon - 9:00 am (YR)

Viola Diperna's Memorial Service — 11:00 am

Boot Camp- 12:15 pm (FH)

Boston Urban Outreach Project ends — 5:00 pm

November 10, 2013 Thirty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm

## **Weekdays**

(M—F) **Bright Stars Afterschool Enrichment Program**, [www.BrightStarsKids.org](http://www.BrightStarsKids.org)

((M—F) **Gentle Dragon Co-op Preschool**, [www.GentleDragonPreschool.org](http://www.GentleDragonPreschool.org)

(M—F) **English at Large** (ESOL/ESL Programs), [www.englishatlarge.org](http://www.englishatlarge.org)

**Room Legend: (FH) Fellowship Hall; (BC) Barnes Chapel; (YR) Youth Room; (LR) Living Room**

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

Ministers: All of us!

Organist and Choir Director: Dr. Herman Weiss

Moderator: Paul Roberts

Treasurer: Beverly Roche

Pastor and Teacher: Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade

Church Administrator: Diane Petrelis

Deacon of the Month: Kathy Williams

Clerk: TBD

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