



**The Congregational Church of West Medford**  
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2014

5:00 o'clock pm



## WELCOME

Welcome to worship and thank you for making the trip across the Mystic.

We want you to know that 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.

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ is in a time of transformation as we seek God's direction for our future. We celebrate the hospitality and support we have received from North Prospect Union Church, a sister UCC congregation who host us today for this time of experimentation.

*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: 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.*

## GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Prelude

*Prelude and Fugue in C# Minor*

—J.S.Bach

Welcome and Opening Prayer

**Call to Worship**

Carol Luongo

Call: Come and worship! In wonder and awe let us seek the face of God.

**Response: *Ahh! God invites us to come just as we are.***

Call: We come longing to experience God's embrace.

**Response: *Ahh! God wraps us in the loving arms of our Creator.***

Call: We come hungry to encounter the Word.

**Response: *Ahh! God feeds us the Bread of Life.***

Call: We come parched for renewal and restoration.

**Response: *Ahh! God quenches our thirst with living water.***

Call: We come weary and worn.

**Response: *Ahh! God shoulders our burdens and grants us peace.***

Call: Come and worship! In wonder and awe God reveals the divine self to us.

**Response: *Ahh! We come as we are and are changed by God's grace.***

**All: *Give glory to God! Amen.***

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

-2-

**\*Opening Song**                      **“Crashing Waters at Creation”**                      **Insert (325/326)**

**Sharing Ourselves with God and Each Other**

**Invitation—For What Do You Thirst?**

**Kyrie Eleison: Lord, have mercy**

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie Eleison. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system has the lyrics: "Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e,". The second system has the lyrics: "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Music: J. Berthier  
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**Confession—Meditation**

**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.**

**\*Sung Response**                      **“Down at the Cross”**                      **Insert (189)**

**Time with Young Christians**

**Church Life and Mission**

**Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer**

*You are invited to name your prayers or write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet.*

**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.

## PROCLAIMING AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Anthem Jonathan Newell Roberts & Philip Alexander Olapade, vocals  
Dr. Herman Weiss, piano

### Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Spirit, we are preparing to open the Scriptures. We want to hear from you as we read. We want to understand these living words and apply them to our lives. We believe that you can give us insight and understanding. Move in us and give us hearts that are open to the truth we will encounter. Let us be changed because we have engaged in the word of the Lord. Amen.

From the Bible "Jesus Loves Everyone" Carol Luongo  
Based on John 4:5—42

### A Psalm of Living Water

One: You are like a mountain spring, O Fountain of Living Water

**All: I sip from the deep down freshness of Your never-failing love.**

One: You are like a summer rain, O Sudden Benediction,

**All: drench my soul and quench my thirsting spirit with Your peace.**

One: You are a raging sea, O Storm Upon my Ocean,

**All: breaking into bits my fragile bark as I learn to lean on You.**

One: You are like a waterfall, Oasis in my Desert,

**All: source of my heart's survival in the press and stress of life.**

One: You are like a cleansing flood, River of Reconciliation,

**All: washing away the selfish self-serving signs of my sinfulness.**

One: You are like a bottomless well, O Cup of Lifegiving Water:

**All: full up to overflowing. Praise be to you Shaddai.**

Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" Insert

Sermon AHHHHHHHHHHH Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

### Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory *Devotion* —Mendlesohn

\*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.

\* Please rise in body or spirit as you are able -4-

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

One: What joy there can be, Loving God, in the giving and receiving of cool, refreshing water. Thank you for the living water we have received from Christ and are privileged to share.

**All: *Bless the resources gathered here today to sustain our spirit and our ministries that we might provide a cup of water to those who thirst. May they and we give fitting expression to our thankfulness. Amen.***

**\*Closing Song**

**“Wade in the Water”**

**Insert**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*All That is Born of God*

—J.S. Bach



Everyone is encouraged to join in a time of community building and refreshments, immediately after worship on the Lower Level of the church.

**Here is a draft Mission Statement which could guide our future.**

*It is designed to answer the three questions:*

*Who are we? What is God calling us to be and do? Who is our neighbor?*

We are action-oriented followers of Jesus, who humbly strive through worship, faith formation and the practice of Jesus' teachings to love God and our neighbors as God loves us.

God calls us to love and meet people where they are; share a life of prayer and service with all; and together--worship, rest in, and serve God. We are seekers of justice and lovers of all of God's creation. Through the community formed by the Holy Spirit, we are consoled, forgiven, refreshed and inspired.

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.

***Do you think it answers the questions and defines the outcome God seeks?***

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

*Nursery Care is not provided today due to the time change—  
you are welcome to keep your children with you in worship.*

**Sunday, March 23, 2014, First Sunday in Lent**

Crossroads Phase II Leadership Meeting (LR/DR) 10:00 am

**NO WORSHIP AT 10 AM**

**Our Worship will be held at**

**North Prospect Union Church, 144 North Street, Medford**

**In the Sanctuary at 5:00 pm**

**with a time of fellowship to follow**

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**The Liturgist today is Carol Luongo.**

**The Deacon of the Month for March is Ose Manheim.**

**Leadership for Fellowship Hour for March is the Spiritual Life Committee; with special  
thanks to Julie Roberts and Karen McCune Barca for this week's coffee hour.**

**Wednesday Worship/Study: Being Jesus Followers**

**March 26 via Fuse Meeting: 7:00—8:15**

**Presenting and discussion the Nooma® Film “Sunday”**

*Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's important to God? God is not  
happy when we call ourselves Christians but ignore all the things God really cares about.  
God doesn't want meaningless rituals. God wants our hearts.*

**Sunday, March 30, 2014, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Prayer for our Process—9:15—9:30 am (Bean Chapel)

Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm

Worship (Sanctuary) 10:00 am

Sandwich Making for Outdoor Church (after worship)

Crossroads Phase II Leadership Meeting (LR/DR) 11:45 am

Faith Formation/Confirmation Class (LD/DR) 4:00—6:00 pm

The scripture lessons for this Fourth Sunday in Lent, are filled with the themes of light and dark and seeing and not seeing. Learning to see through God's eyes and listening to God's promptings are “heart” skills that are nourished by the activity of the Spirit amongst us.

How might we practice these skills and how would it change the way we interact with others?

Who are the “others” that we might need to pay attention to?

**We are on the move.  
Here are the changes in our worship  
plans for the next few months!!**

**If you need help with transportation  
or keeping track of what is happen-  
ing, please ask a deacon for help.**



| Upcoming Schedule for Worship<br>Please note these changes in our plans for worship as our Exploration continues: |           |                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 3/23/2014 | <b>No worship at 10 am;</b> Worship at North Prospect Union @ 5 pm                                         |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 3/30/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary; make Outdoor Church Sandwiches                                                |
| Saturday                                                                                                          | 4/5/2014  | 4 pm: Worship w. Communion at UU Church, Medford                                                           |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 4/6/2014  | <b>No Worship at 10 am</b>                                                                                 |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 4/13/2014 | 10 am: Palm Sunday Worship in Sanctuary;<br>11: 30 am: All Church Meeting re: Bold Decision Recommendation |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 4/20/2014 | 8:30 am: Easter Pot Luck Breakfast w/Egg Hunt<br>10:00 am: Easter Worship in Sanctuary                     |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 4/27/2014 | 10 am: Wendy Vander Hart Preaching, Worship in Sanctuary                                                   |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 5/4/2014  | <b>No Worship at CCWM</b><br>10 am: Worship w/Communion, Non sanctuary space TBD                           |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 5/11/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary, Mother's Day and Baptism                                                      |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 5/18/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary, Confirmation Sunday                                                           |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 5/25/2014 | 10 am: Worship in Sanctuary                                                                                |
| Sunday                                                                                                            | 6/1/2014  | 10 am: Worship at CCWM<br>Congregational Decision Making Meeting —Bold Decision                            |

## THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH

### Sunday, March 23, 2014, Third Sunday in Lent

Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm  
No Sunday Worship Service at The Congregation  
Crossroads Phase 11 Leadership Meeting (LR/DR) 10:00 am  
Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level) 12:00 pm      Church of God of Redemption (Bean Chapel) 12:00 pm  
Goodland Church Worship (in Korean) (Sanctuary) 12:30 pm  
Worship Today at North Prospect Union Church 5 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)  
Mother's Club—7:30 pm (LR)

#### Tuesday

Girl Scouts w B&J Briggs—6:00 pm (green room)  
Church Council—7:00 pm (DR)  
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)  
Worship and Study: Online via Fuze Meeting: 7:00 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

#### Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)

#### 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

LDL—9 am—5 pm  
Church Of The Redeemer Chestnut Hill, Newton, MA,  
Alanon— 9:00 am (YR)  
Yoga—9:00 am (FH)  
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

### Sunday, March 30, 2014, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prayer for our Process—9:15-9:30 am (Bean Chapel)  
Cleaning The Closets—9:30 am-10:00 am; 11:00 am--12:00 pm  
Sunday Worship Service at The Congregation—10 am (Sanctuary)  
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 4:00 pm (LR)

*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: Ose Manheim

Clerk:

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Rev. Wendy—[pastor@medfordchurch.org](mailto:pastor@medfordchurch.org)