

# The Congregational Church of West Medford

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

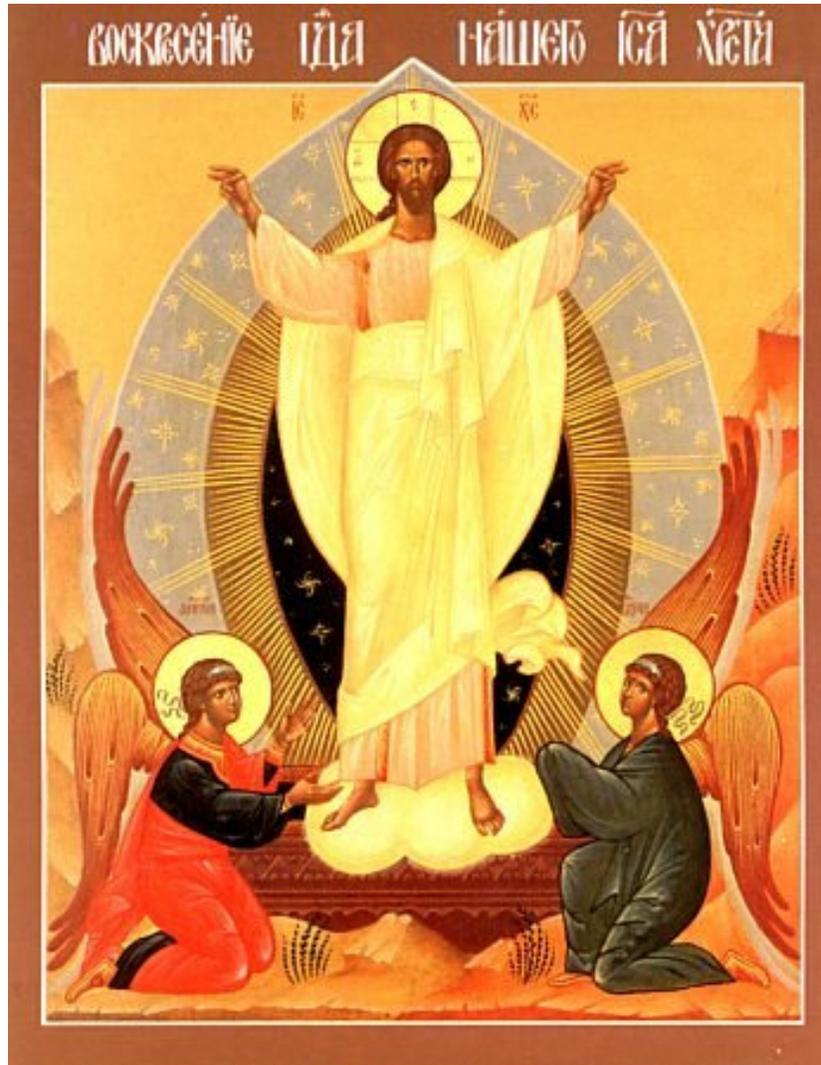
Easter Sunday Worship

April 20, 2014

10:00 o'clock am



God is Still Speaking,





**All: Alleluia!**

**One:** Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Choral Anthem

“Forth He Came at Easter”

—Pote

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Karen McCune Barca , Kathy Williams, Ose Manheim

**One:** God of life, thank you for the night: for those who kept watch through its long hours; for the gift of sleep, and the refreshment of dreams; for your faithful presence that keeps us company when we are not aware of you;

**All: Thank you, God of life!**

**Two:** God of life, thank you for this new day: for the song of birds, the early morning bustle of city streets, and the brightening sky; for this day of all days when we celebrate the risen Christ;

**All: Thank you, God of life!**

**Three:** God of life, thank you for the message of Easter: for the affirmation of your steadfast love; for the presence of the One who overcame death; for the promise of life still to be revealed;

**All: Thank you, God of life!**

Choral Anthem

“Music of the Morning”

—Choplin

**Confession and Assurance**

**One:** God of life, creation shouts your presence,

**All: but we do not always know where to find you.**

*Short time of silence.*

**Two:** God of life, your Spirit is in all who love and do good,

**All: but we do not always recognize you.**

*Short time of silence.*

**Three:** God of life, your promises give us hope and confidence,

**All: but we do not always understand or believe.**

*Short time of silence.*

**Words of affirmation**

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

**One:** The God of love does not give us over to death but offers us life;  
the Spirit of Jesus gives us a song of joy to sing.

**All: We are witnesses to the life of the risen Christ! Alleluia!**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

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



## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

*Children are invited forward to play percussion during the following sung response*

### 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

Anthem

“Beautiful City”

—from Godspell

Emma Kromm, Soloist

### Pastoral Prayer

*You are invited to write your prayers on the blue prayer sheet and pass them to the center aisle to be collected by a deacon.*

**One:** God of life, we see resurrection all around us...

...Loving God,

**All:** may the stone be rolled away, releasing them to new life.

**One:** ...Loving God,

**All:** may the stone be rolled away releasing them to new life.

**One:** ...Loving God,

**All:** may the stone be rolled away releasing them to new life.

**One:** ...May we do our part to roll away the stone.



### Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

***O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear it proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.***

From the Bible

Acts 10: 34—43

Bev Roche

Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection”

# 245

From the Gospel

Matthew 28: 1—10

Bev Roche

Reflection

IT'S ABOUT LIFE

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade



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

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Affirmation (In Unison)

We believe in an Easter God who creates and re-creates, who gives abundant life and is with us through all that life may bring.

We believe in Christ of the Resurrection who appeared to his disciples and became present in a new way to those who follow him.

We believe in the Spirit foretold by Jesus who came with power and wonders who gives strength and consolation and empowers us. Amen.

### Offering

#### Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

*"And We Arise"*

—Kromm

Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

#### \*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.*

The Invitation to the Banquet

#### Eucharistic Prayer

One: Jesus – companion and Saviour...

...Great God of resurrection, bringing life from death, light from shadows, adventures from question,

authenticity from lies, we sing with all the angels, (continued next page)



**All:** *Holy, holy, holy God of new and transforming life  
heaven and earth are full of your glory  
hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name, O God:  
hosanna in the highest.*

One: May our living be our thanksgiving...

### Words of Institution

One: We remember...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**All:** *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

One: Come now, Spirit and creating God: Knead this bread into the body of Christ among us...Remembering his supper with those who traveled with him.

**All:** *Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.*

### 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.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

### Resurrection Acclamation

One: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

**All:** *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

### Sharing the Elements

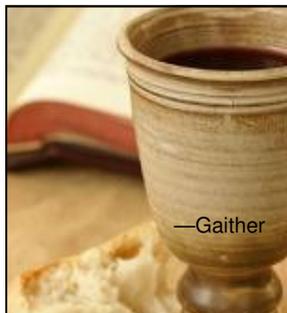
Anthem

*"Because He Lives"*

Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Refreshed and renewed, O Christ, we emerge from communion with you, no longer broken by our confusion and fear. We are now living loaves reshaped by your grace and forgiveness. We are now fresh-flowing wine, ready to be poured out in celebration of your life-giving Spirit. We are whole once again and we praise you for the transformation. Through Jesus the Christ, our living and risen Lord, we pray. Amen



\*Closing Hymn

**"Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"**

**# 230**

Stanza 1—3

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

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## Blessing and Benediction

**One:** Now that morning has come

**All:** **and the dawn has broken the darkness.**

**One:** Now that the stone has rolled

**All:** **and set free the life.**

**One:** Now that Christ is risen

**All:** **let us go**

**One:** not quietly, not gently

**All:** **but with a great alleluia**

**One:** that lets the world know

**All:** **life says “Yes!”**

**One:** And now may the Christ who has risen, the God who sets free,  
and the Spirit who rolls stones, be with us and go with us all into this world  
as we sing Hallelujah, Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen Indeed!



“The Risen Lord” by He Qi

## Response

### “Hallelujah Chorus”

—Handel

*All are encouraged to come forward to sing—music is available for all.*

## Postlude

### *My Spirit Be Joyful*

—J.S. Bach

## THE BEAUTIFUL EASTER PLANTS DECORATING OUR SANCTUARY HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY



Gail Airasian in honor of the next generation  
Gail Airasian in gratitude for the preceding generation  
The Disciullo Family celebrating grandchildren, Sophie and Joseph  
The DiSciullo Family honoring parents Marlene, George, Guidot, & Katherine  
Carolyn Epps honoring parents Mildred L. and Andrew M. Williams  
The Luongo Family honoring Doris and Clyde Shackson  
The Luongo Family honoring Joe Luongo, Sr.  
Karen McCune-Barca honoring the McCunes and Souzas  
Evalyn O'Rourke honoring Loved Ones  
Paul and Julie Roberts Family honoring Loved Ones  
The Roche Family honoring Loved Ones  
The Wescott Family honoring Joyce Conlan

*...with special thanks to Brenda Briggs for her faithful flower ministry.*

**WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD**

**Today, Sunday, April 20, 2014, Easter Sunday**

**Easter Pot Luck Breakfast—8:30 am (FH)**

**Easter Egg Hunt— 9:15 am (Front Lawn)**

**Easter Sunday Worship with Communion, Festival Choir—10 am (Sanctuary)**

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**The Altar Flowers today are given by Brenda Briggs in memory of her friend, Marie Epps.**

***Special thanks to:***

The Liturgist: Bev Roche and other worship participants.

Guest Musicians: Emma Kromm, Grace Kromm, Randall Kromm

Trumpet Players: Spencer Petitti and Jonathan Remy;

Guest Nursery Care: Dorothy Eckstein, Temple Shalom Medford.

Julie Roberts our Pot Luck organizer and all who brought our delicious breakfast.

Jenny Briggs for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt.

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

Sexton, Steve Smith for his faithful presence.

The Deacon of the Month for April is Julie Roberts.

No Fellowship Hour today.

**NO Wednesday Online worship this week, April 23.**

Rev. Wendy is taking a reduced work week to recover!

Our Online Wednesday Worship and Study will resume, Wednesday April 30, 7 pm; with the Rob Bell Nooma Film entitled "Trees." This discussion will help us to think about living a life (and having a faith) that is not about that "someday" when I go to heaven, but is about life that has meaning and purpose today! The Kingdom of God—right now, right here.

**Sunday April 27, Holy Hilarity Sunday!**

**Worship with Special Guest Preacher Rev. Wendy Vander Hart—10 am**

We will consider the story of Thomas who seeks evidence of Jesus' resurrection.

Worship will be followed by an open Q&A Session during Fellowship Hour

with Wendy Vander Hart and the CCWM Leadership Team

to discuss our recommendation for "The Bold Decision."

***Contact information and the full calendar can be located on the back of the "Reporter" and via [www.medfordchurch.org](http://www.medfordchurch.org)***