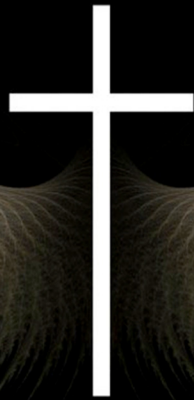


But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom
the Father will send in my name, will teach
you all things and will remind you of
everything I have said to you.



God is Still Speaking,

**The Congregational Church
of West Medford**

An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide—May 25, 2014

Worship at 10 o'clock am

A Memorial Day Prayer by Rev. Dick Kozelka (ret) First Congregational Church, Minneapolis, MN.

Eternal God, Creator of years, of centuries, Lord of whatever is beyond time,
Maker of all species and master of all history—

How shall we speak to you from our smallness and inconsequence?

Except that you have called us to worship you in spirit and in truth;

You have dignified us with loves and loyalties;

You have lifted us up with your loving kindnesses.

Therefore we are bold to come before you without groveling

[though we sometimes feel that low]

and without fear *[though we are often anxious]*.

We sing with spirit and pray with courage because you have dignified us;

You have redeemed us from the aimlessness of things' going meaninglessly well.

God, lift the hearts of those for whom this holiday is not just diversion,
but painful memory and continued deprivation.

Bless those whose dear ones have died needlessly,

wastefully *[as it seems]*

in accident or misadventure.

We remember with compassion

those who have died

serving their countries

in the futility of combat.

There is none of us

but must come to bereavement

and separation,

when all the answers we are offered

fail the question death asks of each of us.

We believe that you will provide for us

as others have been provided

with the fulfillment of

"Blessed are those who mourn,

for they shall be comforted." Amen.



WELCOME

The Congregational Church of West Medford, United Church of Christ is in a time of transformation as we move toward God's new direction for our ministry and our future. Thank you for your patience with and your participation in our experimentation and exploration.

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.

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 *Christ is Our Cornerstone* —Schein

Welcome

Church Life and Mission

***Opening Hymn** **“Come You Faithful Raise the Strain”** **# 230**

***Call to Worship** Ose Manheim

One: God, you have brought us out into a sacred place.

All: *We lay our worries down.*

One: We come as brothers and sisters in Christ,

All: *shine your spirit of truth on us.*

One: We come to worship you with open hearts and minds,

All: *you bring us into a sacred place.*

Connecting with God

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

Preparing our Hearts **“The Peace of the Earth”** —Iona

The peace of the earth be with you, the peace of the heavens too

The peace of the rivers be with you the peace of the oceans too

Deep peace, falling over you; God's peace, gro-o-wing in you.

Prayer of Confession

One: Faithful God, For times we have not cared
for those who are orphaned in body, mind or soul,

All: forgive.

One: For times when we have closed our minds or our hearts
to those who are bereaved,

All: forgive.

One: For times when we jostle with others for recognition,
status, or our share of the pie,

All: forgive.

One: When our insecurities, fears, and anxieties hold us back
from living in your love and in your commandments,

All: forgive. Amen.

Silence

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

***Passing of the Peace**

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

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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

The Word with God's Beloved Children

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.

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.

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

-4-

Sung Response

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
Stanza 1 only

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Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

We give thanks, O God of sacred stories, for the wisdom of holy scripture. Through it, you nurture our imaginations, touch our feelings, increase our awareness, and challenge our assumptions. Bless we pray, our hearing of your Word this day. Speak to each of us; speak to all of us; and grant that by the power of your Spirit, we may be hearers and doers of your Word. Amen.

From the Bible

John 14:15—21, 25—26

Sermon

DNF? NFW!

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Litany of Response

One: Where there are places of fear in our lives,

All: may they be filled with the Holy Spirit.

One: Where fear distorts our perspective,

All: may your Holy Spirit shine light.

One: Where people live in fear of or in the midst of war,

All: may your Holy Spirit bring comfort.

One: When your church is afraid to speak out on matters of justice and of peace,

All: may your Holy Spirit move us to speak truth.

One: God of grace, when we fear your call on our lives,

All: may your Holy Spirit comfort and reassure us.

One: When we orphan ourselves from you by controlling
and working out of our own authority,

All: remind us that power and authority rest with you, oh God.

Sung Response

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”
Stanza 2 only

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Offering

Invitation to Joyful Stewardship

Offertory

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

—Pachelbel

*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**

***Closing Hymn**

“There’s a Sprit in the Air”

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Benediction

Postlude

Trio

—Zipoli

~ ~ ~

All are invited to a time of fellowship,
refreshment and conversation in
Barnes Chapel.



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

WORSHIP AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WEST MEDFORD

Today, May 25—Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

Our worship looks towards Pentecost when the disciples will receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that will affirm them of Christ's presence with them always. Though Jesus is no longer on Earth, because of this Spirit we are never alone.

~ ~ ~

**The Altar Flowers are given by Beverly Roche
in loving memory of her father, Frank Gibson & nephew Brad Roche**

Special thanks to:

Our Liturgist for today, Ose Manheim

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

.The Deacon of the Month for May is Karen McCune Barca (karenmccunebarca@gmail.com).

The Deacon of the Month for June is Brenda Briggs (bgbriggs51@gmail.com)

Wednesday, May 28 Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm

via Fuze meeting <http://fuze.me/23459647>

Our Online Worship and Study this Wednesday with the Rob Bell Nooma Film entitled "Luggage" This films asks the question: "Why is it so hard to forgive?" We all have wounds and we end up carrying around these things that people have done to us for too long. It isn't easy to forgive but God created us to be free...

Next Sunday, June 1—Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

Worship and Congregational Meeting—10:00 am

See the Call to Congregational Meeting in the Reporter.

Wednesday, June 4 Online Worship/Study—7:00 pm

via Fuze meeting <http://fuze.me/23459647>

Nooma film "Dust". "Faith in Jesus is important, but what about Jesus' faith in us?"

Sunday, June 8, Pentecost—11:00 am

Joint Blue Grass Worship and Barbeque with North Prospect Union (NPU)

We are delighted to be joining our friends at NPU, UCC for a Joint Blue Grass Worship service at 11:00 am (at NPU, 144 North Street, Medford). Worship will be followed by a BBQ—with Blue Ribbon BBQ meats and Pot Luck Sides.

Watch for more specifics, but take a look at your recipe box (or ask Kathy for a copy of her Southern Cook-Booklet) for your best BBQ sides recipes to join the fun.

And plan to wear RED!!!

THIS WEEK AT YOUR CHURCH
Sunday May 25, Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

Worship 10 am

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

Tuesday

Church Council —7:00 pm (LR)
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)
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)
On Line Worship/Study—7:00 pm (Fuze Meeting)
CCWM Joint Ministry Team Meeting—7:00 pm (BC)
Alcoholics Anonymous— 8:00 pm (YR)

Thursday

Food Addicts—6:00 pm (YR)
Zumba—6:30 pm (FH)
Girl Scouts—7:00 pm (BC)
NPU Partnership Meeting—7:00 pm

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

Alanon— 9:00 am (YR)
Yoga—9:00 am (FH)
Boot Camp—12:15 pm (FH)

Sunday June 1, Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

**A Congregational Meeting of the Governing body of The Congregational Church
and Worship 10 am**

Tibetan Sunday School (Lower Level)—12:00 pm
Church of Redemption (Bean Chapel)—11:30 pm

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 for the Month of May: Karen McCune Barca

Deacon for the Month of June: Brenda Briggs

Clerk: Karen McCune Barca

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Rev. Wendy—pastor@medfordchurch.org