

FIRST COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
AT 10:30 a.m.

April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter | Native American Ministries Sunday

join us online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstcommunityumc>

*Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome at First Community UMC.*

** As an inclusive community, we invite you to sing & confess your faith in the language that you feel comfortable.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are viewing the service via **Facebook**, please say “hello” and comment, so we may add you to today’s attendance register. If you have joys or concerns, please type them in the comments now, so we may include you in our **“Sharing of Joys and Concerns & Pastoral Prayer.”**
- Today is **Native American Ministries Sunday**. This month, we will celebrate Native American heritage in a segment of each Sunday’s service. If you wish to give a special Sunday offering to this ministry, you may do so online at UMC.org. [Special Sunday Offering Link](#)
- We are seeking **greeters** and **worship leaders** for our **April, May and June Sunday worship services**. To volunteer, [Sign-Up as Greeter and/or Worship Leader Here](#)
- **Upcoming meetings and events include:**
 - An **SPRC** meeting on **Monday, April 19** at **7:30pm** [SPRC Meeting Link](#)
 - On **Wednesday, April 21** at **7pm**, we will begin a new series for our online Bible Study titled, **Immigration and Human Dignity**. Pastor De La Rosa will facilitate and be joined by Pastor Awa, who developed this curriculum as part of her ordination. [Bible Study Link](#)
- Due to **COVID Guidelines**, please use the exit door under the bell tower.
- **Please remember to pray for our church friends & family.** Daily prayer reminders can be found below and on our monthly church calendar located at www.firstcommunitymedford.org.

Church Staff

Pastor: Cristian De La Rosa
Hours: Mon & Fri 10:00-2:00
Options to Meet: in Church Parlor, by phone or via Zoom
Cell: 540-550-9251 | Email: cdlrosa@bu.edu
To set up a meeting: calendly.com/cdlrosa

Music Director: Luci Rexroad
Pastoral Leadership Intern: Pastor Uchenna Awa

Computer Tech Intern: Ana Maria Rodriguez
Tech Support Intern: Felix Jibrin
Children’s Education Intern: Sandra Barrios
Soloist: Ebiye Seimode

During the week ahead, please pray for these friends:

April 18 – Deanna Wright & Madison Wright
April 19 – Barbara Adams & Yola Aurelian
April 20 – Deb & Steve Alibrandi
April 21 – Fred & Kathy Aluia
April 22 – Sam Aluia & Nino Aluia
April 23 – Kali Baker & James Nogueira
April 24 – Valerie Becker-Nogueira & Wallace Nogueira
April 25 – Sylvia Bosselman & Sharyn Bosselman

Church Administrator: Kathy Aluia
Hours: Mon, Thurs & Fri 9:30am-12:30pm
Phone: 781-396-5436
Email: office@firstcommunitymedford.org
Website: www.firstcommunitymedford.org

*Thank you for joining us. Please use these quiet moments
to center yourself and prepare for worship...*

CHURCH BELLS & ALTAR CANDLES

PRELUDE

“Pastorale”

*-Franz Schubert
arr. by Lani Smith*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanie Finley, Worship Leader

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Leader: When we are confused

All: Lord, give us peace.

Leader: When we are afraid

All: Lord, give us peace.

Leader: When we are lost in grief

All: Lord, give us peace.

O God, meet us in this room

And grant us peace!

COMMUNAL PRAYER (in unison) ²

We are witnesses,
to the love God has poured into us.

We are witnesses of God’s love,
sharing it with each person we meet.

We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,
little children like us,
sisters and brothers in God’s family.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Sandra Barrios, Children’s Education Intern

HYMN *UMH* 474 ³

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

1. Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Refrain:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:

Refrain:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

(Hymn continued next page)

3. When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICANS' HERITAGE

Pastor Awa

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE:

Psalm 4

Stephanie Finley, Worship Leader

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

READING FROM THE GOSPELS:

Luke 24:36b-48

Pastor De La Rosa

For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,

thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Presence of Our God: Do We Recognize It in This Place?"

Pastor De La Rosa

HYMN *UMH* 328 ⁴

"Surely the Presence of the Lord"

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of the angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS & PASTORAL PRAYER

Gracious God, **hear our prayers.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father [God/Creator], who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom [kin-dom], come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom [kin-dom],
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Stephanie Finley, Worship Leader

Mighty God,
 Who brings life and hope out of death and despair,
 help us hear the invitation Christ offered to the disciples,
 “Touch me and see!”
 Make us bold to grab hold of the risen Christ
 – not for this day but for all our days.
 May we offer our gifts this morning
 not to the church historical
 —the church that was
 —but to a church that is becoming,
 that is still being born,
 that Christ will bring into the future.
 May our eyes and ears and hearts
 continue to hold on to him
 as we help Christ lead his church forward!
 In his name, we pray. Amen. *-Luke 24:36b-48*

OFFERTORY MUSIC ⁵

“Imela”

-Nathaniel Bassey

Pastor Uchenna Awa and Ebiye Seimode, Vocalists

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise [God] all creatures here below;
 praise [God] above, ye heavenly host; praise [Creator], Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor De La Rosa

HYMN *UMH 307* ⁶

“Christ Is Risen”

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
 Celebrate this day of days.
 Christ is risen! Hush in wonder;
 all creation is amazed.
 In the desert all-surrounding,
 see, a spreading tree has grown.
 Healing leaves of grace abounding
 bring a taste of love unknown.</p> | <p>2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
 from the caverns of despair.
 Walk with gladness in the morning.
 See what love can do and dare.
 Drink the wine of resurrection,
 not a servant, but a friend;
 Jesus is our strong companion.
 Joy and peace shall never end.</p> |
| <p>3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
 never more shall be the same.
 Break the bread of new creation
 where the world is still in pain.
 Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
 “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
 God the First and Last is with us.
 Sing Hosanna everyone!</p> | |

BENEDICTION

Pastor De La Rosa

**POSTLUDE & PERMISSION TO
PODCAST/STREAM MESSAGE**

“Grand Triumphal Chorus”

-Alexander Guilmant
arr. by Thomas Chesterton

*Please exit pews one person at a time and proceed to exit the church
through the door under the bell tower.*

At this time, we are unable to remain in the church or offer coffee hour after the service.

Copyright/References:

Permission obtained from CCLI #21000626 and ONE LICENSE #A-715349 to podcast/stream music in our service.

¹ Safiyah Fosua, *The Africana Worship Book for Year B*, Discipleship Resources, Valerie Bridgeman Davis, and Safiyah Fosua Eds., 2007, p.60.

² Written by Thom Shuman and posted on LiturgyLink. <https://www.liturgylink.net>.

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⁵ Permission to stream the song Imela has been granted by the composer, Nathaniel Basse.

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