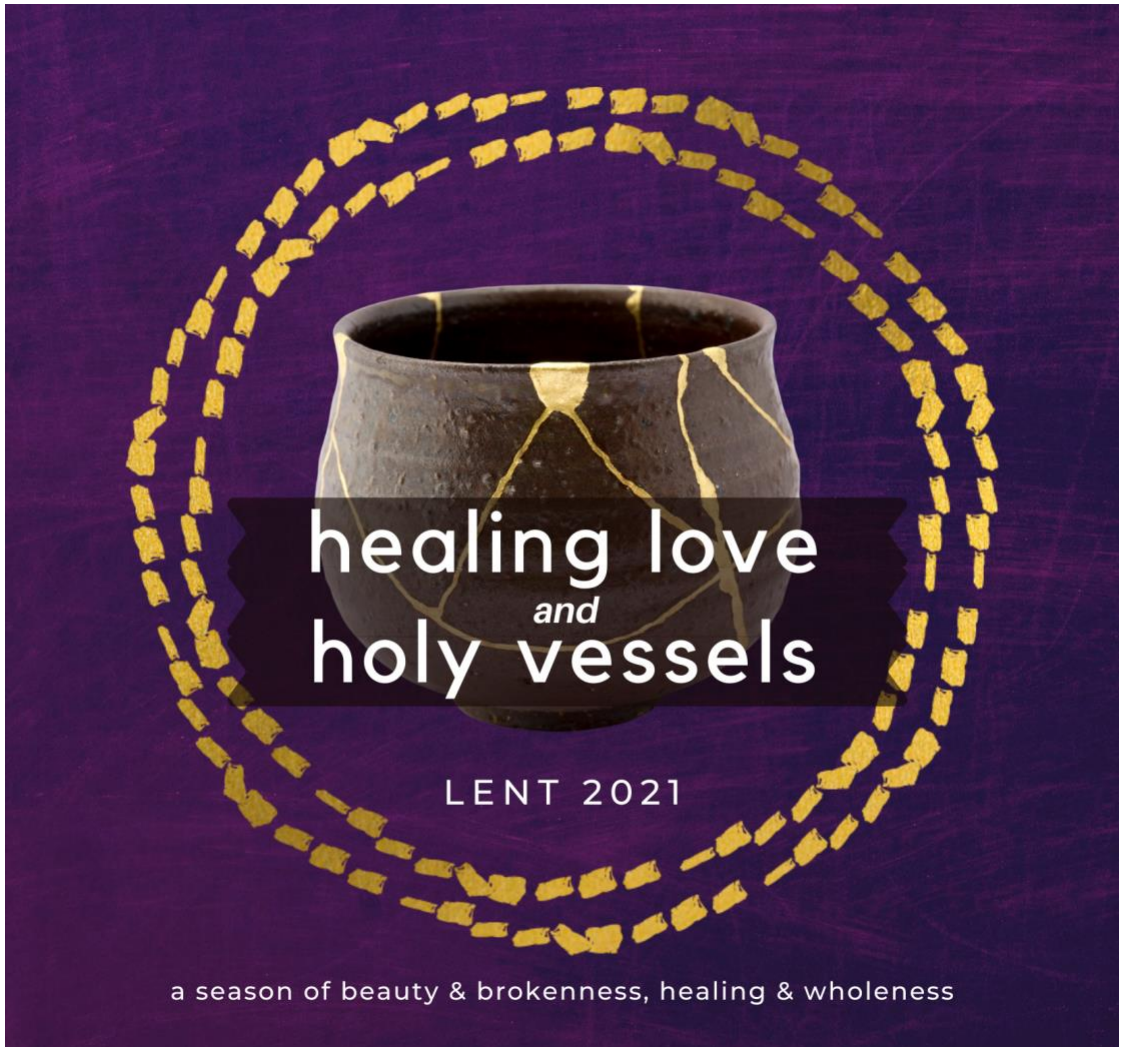


# The Federated Church

*United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association*



healing love  
*and*  
holy vessels

LENT 2021

a season of beauty & brokenness, healing & wholeness

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**March 07, 2021 | 10:00am**

# Order of Worship

## Prelude

## Welcome & Passing the Peace

**Gathering Hymn** “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” vv. 1, 2, 4 (p. 3)

## Centering Moment

### **Prayer of Confession & Repentance**

*“Those who had seen him as a blind man begging said, “Isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?” But others objected, “It can’t be him. It just looks like him!” He said, “It’s me!” But they said, “Oh yeah, then how were your eyes opened?!”*

*~ John 9:8-10*

Following Jesus requires an openness to growing and being changed. But, sometimes when we grow or our minds and actions change, people try to put us back in the box of who they think we are—who we once were. Has this happened to you? How did it feel? When have *you* done this to someone else? Who in your life might God be changing, and what would it look like for you to “see” them?

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**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 debts,  
As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Sung Assurance** “Come Healing” (p. 4)

**Scripture** [John 9:1-41](#) *select verses*

**Sermon** “Healing and Mental Health”

## Musical Meditation

## Holy Communion

**Invitation & Sung Response** “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” v. 3  
**Sharing Bread & Cup**

## Our Common Life

**Sending Hymn** “We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness” (p. 5)

## Benediction

## Postlude

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
 2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,  
 3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
 4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in you;  
 to you I yield my flick - ering flame;  
 to you I can - not close my heart;  
 from you I dare not seek to flee;

I give you back the life I owe, that  
 Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that  
 I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
 Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but


in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.  
 from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.  
 know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.  
 from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

# Come Healing



1. O ga - ther up the bro - kenness and bring it to me now.\_\_\_\_\_ The fra-grance of those

18

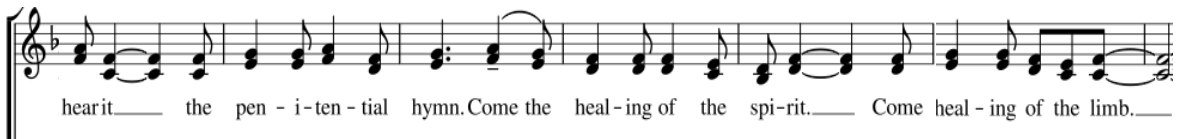


pro-mises you ne - ver dared to vow.\_\_\_\_ The splin-ters that you carried,\_\_\_\_ the cross you left be -

18



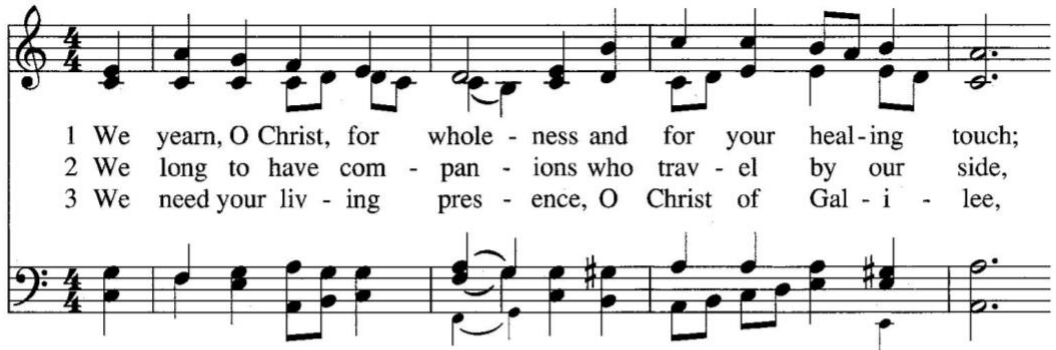
hind. Come\_\_\_\_ heal-ing of the bo-dy.\_\_\_\_ Come heal - ing of the mind.\_\_\_\_ And let the hea - vens



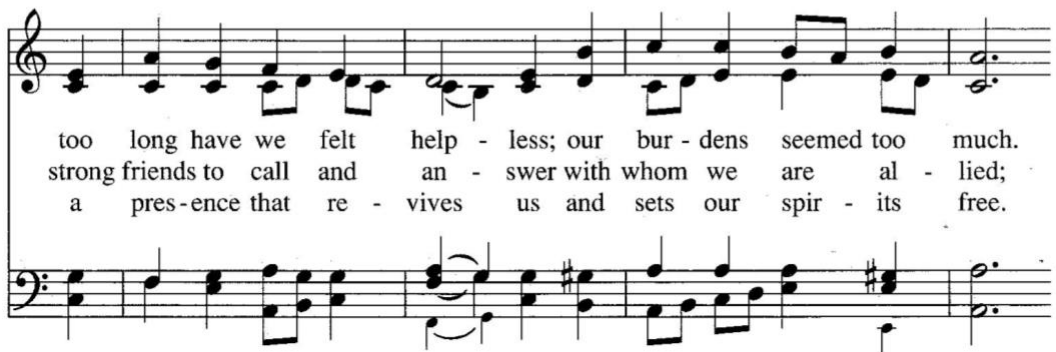
hear it.\_\_\_\_ the pen - i - ten - tial hymn. Come the heal - ing of the spi - rit.\_\_\_\_ Come heal - ing of the limb.\_\_\_\_

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## We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness



1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal - ing touch;  
2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,  
3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,



too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.  
strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;  
a pres - ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.



For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead - ings heard,  
As we lift up each oth - er when strug - gles lay us low,  
No long - er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.



in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra - cious Word.  
com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.  
Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal - ing grace.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Office Emails**—if you haven't already noticed, we have new office emails. We will no longer be using [thefederatedchurch@frontier.com](mailto:thefederatedchurch@frontier.com) or [reveric.federated@gmail.com](mailto:reveric.federated@gmail.com). Please delete them from your Contacts, and add:

Office: [office@fedsycamore.org](mailto:office@fedsycamore.org)

Pastor Eric: [reveric@fedsycamore.org](mailto:reveric@fedsycamore.org)

*If you haven't been receiving our weekly emails, check your "Junk" or "Spam" folders.*

## **Pastor Eric's Installation, March 14, 1pm via Zoom**

The Prairie Association of the United Church of Christ along with our own church leadership invites you to join us as we officially "install" Pastor Eric as our Pastor and Teacher at Federated Church. This service would have typically taken place within the first 6-8 months of his ministry here, but has been postponed until now due to the pandemic.

Unlike our usual worship services, which take place via Facebook Live, **this service will take place via Zoom** so that many people will be able to participate in leading the service. Rev. Amelia Edson, one of Pastor Eric's good friends from Harvard Divinity School, will be offering the sermon.

Zoom information will be provided in next week's emails.

## **Liz Finney's Retirement**

Our beloved Liz Finney is retiring from her role as our Office Administrator. **Her last day in the office is this Thursday, March 11.**

Liz has blessed our office with her warm inviting presence, her generous spirit, and her love for this congregation for 14 years! I look forward to introducing our new Administrator, Laura Wellendorf, to you soon, but for now let us join in honoring and celebrating Liz!

You can find a flyer with her retirement celebration information [on it here](#).

# ***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

**Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community.** In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where the dignity of people living with disabilities or mental health issues are often ignored, demonized, or turned into a joke, we promise to:

Welcome all people of every age, gender, race, national origin, faith expression, marital status & family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, physical ability, mental or emotional condition, economic and social status, and educational background to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our church family.

**The Rainbow Flag:** We proudly display a rainbow flag at the front of our sanctuary as a visual declaration of God's extravagant and inclusive love, as well as of our own "promise of welcome" to all people. Our prayer is that all can be their truest selves here. This flag serves as a particular signal that our church is a safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

# ***“Welcoming Any, Loving All”***

**The Federated Church is  
An Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation**



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[Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#):

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[www.fedsycamore.org](http://www.fedsycamore.org)

**Church Office:** (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** office@fedsycamore.org  
**Pastor Eric's cell:** (815) 797-2250 || **Email:** reveric@fedsycamore.org

**Federated Church Preschool, Director Jan Scheffers**  
**Phone:** (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** federatedchurchpreschool@gmail.com

**Address:** 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178