

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



**TRANSFORMED
IN THE
WILDERNESS**

lent 2022

March 13, 2022 | 10:00

Order of Worship

*All music is from the **black New Century Hymnal** in your pew back, unless noted otherwise*

Prelude

Welcome & Call to Worship

In beginning, God hovers over voids and breathes life into dust.

God draws forth life in the wilderness.

The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

The Israelites found God in the wilderness.

Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.

Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.

We learn and grow in the wilderness. We are transformed in the wilderness.

For God is with us—before, through, and after the wilderness.

So come: young and old, sinner and saint, rich and poor;

Come dreamers and doubters, and you who are a little bit of it all.

All are welcome here, for this is God’s house. Let us worship God!

Passing the Peace

Gathering Hymn “All Are Welcome” (p.5)

Centering Moment

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...” ~ Luke 4:13

“My grandfather was a good man, but he believed that wilderness emotions were not to be seen.

Cry with the door closed, don’t dwell on the negative. Chin up, kid, we’ve been here before.

My grandfather was a good man, but I’d like to say—

The wilderness is here to interrupt your previously-scheduled programming.

Like water in the desert and setting the slaves free,

The wilderness might just be the very thing we need,

The very thing we dream, the very thing we plead for.

I guess what I’m trying to say is—it never seems appealing to let a bird in the house,

But if you do, then you might as well open every window and door.

And if you do, then you might find yourself basking in the light, dancing in the breeze,

Overwhelmed with the beauty that an open door brings.

So I’m opening my door and inviting in the wind, to rustle up my heart and start over again.

For sweeping the truth under the rug has never gotten us far.

So may the wilderness be like a bird in your house.

Throw open your doors. The truth must come out.

~ “The Wilderness is a Place of Disruption” by Sarah Are

Silent Prayer & 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 Response "I Shall Not Want" (*please join in on chorus*)

From the love of my own comfort, from the fear of having nothing;
From a life of worldly passions, Deliver me, O God

From the need to be understood, and from a need to be accepted
From the fear of being lonely, Deliver me, O God, Deliver me, O God (*chorus*)

And I shall not want, no, I shall not want. When I taste Your good ness I shall not want.

Scripture

[Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-19](#)

Sermon

"Can Disruptions Be Sacred?"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Announcements

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Hymn "Wilderness Gifts Us a Holy Disruption" (p.6)

Benediction

Postlude

While the postlude plays, ushers will release you one row at a time, beginning in the back

All Are Welcome



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly live, a
2. Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and true, where
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and stone to
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi- sions heard and



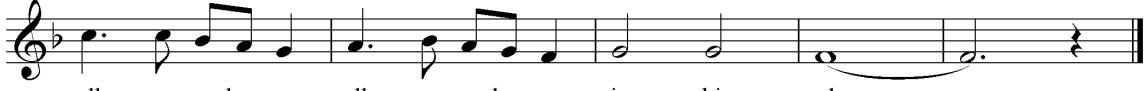
place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn to for - give. Built of
all God's chil - dren dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new. Here the
heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the
loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as words with - in the Word. Built of



hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
out - cast and the strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,
one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Wilderness Gifts Us a Holy Disruption

1. Wild - er - ness gifts us a ho - ly dis - rup - tion;
 2. Bless - ed dis - com - fort re - news all our fo - cus;
 3. Sac - red and dang - er - ous, wild, wide, and wond - rous,
 4. Come, you God's peo - ple, the time's now for learn - ing.

5

dri - ven by Spi - rit to wan - der in wait - ing.
 dares us to plow through the din of dis - trac - tion.
 wild - er - ness trains us for Christ's res - ur - ec - tion.
 Lent is the jour - ney of Je - sus' temp - ta - tion

9

Here we are tempt - ed by ev - ill's cor - rup - tion;
 Then in God's time we shall bloom like the cro - cus,
 What seems so scarce is, for God, tru - ly bound - less.
 Wild - er - ness brings with it truth and dis - cern - ing.

13

trust - ing in God to con - tin - ue cre - a - ting.
 root - ed in gard - ens of grace guid - ed act - ion.
 Noth - ing's so harsh to es - cape God's af - fec - tion.
 Then at the tomb will we find our sal - va - tion.

WORSHIP NOTES

Those serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

Ushers: Roger Jacobson, Gip Seaver, Judy Winter & Ruth Olle — Ushers scheduled for next Sunday, Mar. 20th: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason & Allison Stahl.

The poem, “*The Wilderness is a Place of Disruption*” is by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and is used with permission. CCLI License #3234671

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community: This means that in a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality; a time when 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+ people to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer List — Included in our Weekly E-news, this is made through updates shared with the church office. To add or remove a prayer request, please contact Laura. Let us know what information you’d like shared, including service information (e.g. a funeral or celebration of life). If you’re looking for information, what we’ve received to share will be included there. Additionally, if someone immediately connected to our congregation has died, you will be notified as soon as we have this information. Illnesses and the deaths of extended family and friends will be shared in the next Weekly E-news / Prayer List.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS



via zoom

**Healing. Growth.
Transformation. Newness.**

They sound nice, don't they? Yet the change and journey they imply are anything but easy. They require intentionality & breaking our addictions to habits and cycles that keep us stuck. It's hard work. It's heart work. And we never perfect it.

In this small group, we'll use short films that integrate video, music, and reflections from leading Christian thinkers to help us reflect together on everyday

spiritual practices needed to draw us beyond what is, and toward the newness God desires to grow in us. *There's no "pre-work" for this small group. You can simply show up each week!*

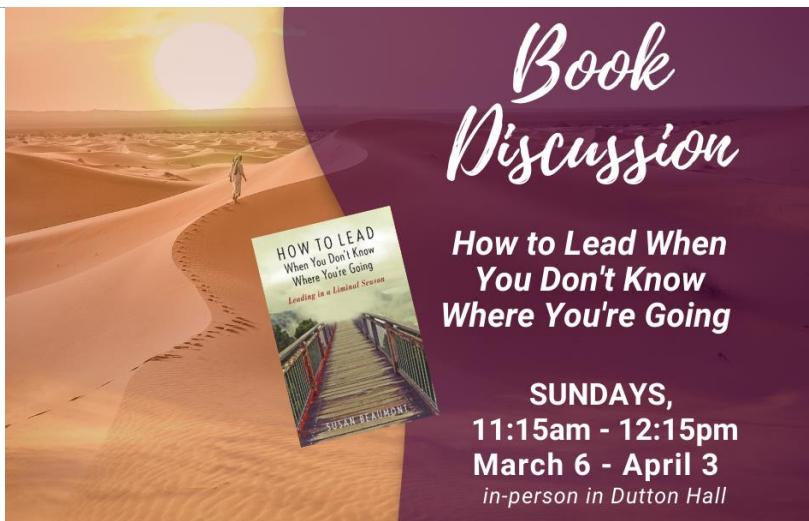
[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)

Richard Rohr reminds us that all transformation takes place when we are in between the familiar and the completely unknown. Scripture often illustrates this setting as "the wilderness."

When things fall apart in life, when how we've always operated or understood God and faith is no longer working, we can feel disoriented or stuck—like we're in a wilderness. Like those in scripture, we often try to run from such places—and yet, like them, God leads us back because the only way out is through.

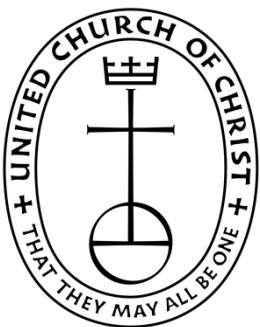
In this small group, we'll reflect on how we can navigate "wilderness journeys"—our own and as a church—without simplistically wishing to "return to normal" or thinking we can jump to the other side. Instead, we'll ask how we can open ourselves during these journeys to God's transforming spirit such that even in the wilderness we may be made new.

[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)



"Welcoming Any, Loving All"

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:
the [United Church of Christ](#) & the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#)*



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