

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association



TRANSFORMED IN THE WILDERNESS

lent 2022

March 20, 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 chaos 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.

Jacob's scheming, lying, and shame were disrupted in a dream.

Jacob began anew 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.

Let us worship, sowing seeds that transform wildernesses into gardens.

Passing the Peace

Gathering Hymn “Be Now My Vision” (p.4)

Centering Moment

“‘Begin again,’ life whispered in my ear; for some days are beginning days.

Some days are designed to be the day we try again,

And on those days—the sun rises for you.

On those days, the birds sing for you.

On those days, God is cheering for you.

That’s just the way God and beginnings work.

For when your heart is broken and your life is in pieces,

Or when the addiction or the depression have found their way back into your bones,

Or when you lose sight of the person that you were called to be,

The wilderness will sing to you, ‘Begin again.’

‘Begin again,’ with the person you want to be.

‘Begin again’ with the person you want to love.

‘Begin again’ with the knowledge of your faith.

‘Begin again.’

The sun is rising for you.”

~ “The Wilderness is a Place of Beginnings” 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 "O Christ, Surround Me" (vv. 1 & 4 + refrain; p.5)

Scripture [Genesis 31:11-55 \(excerpts\); Luke 8:4-8](#)

Sermon "The Wilderness is Where We Begin Again"

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 "Hymn for a New Church" (p.6)

Benediction

Postlude

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

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 & Linda Mason — Ushers scheduled for next Sunday, Mar. 27th: Nate & Pam Kitterman & Linda Mason.

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

Be Now My Vision

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

Hymn for a New Church



1. Can we still be your peo - ple, Lord, in ___ spite of all ___ we've been?
2. The i - dols we have built still claim our heart, our mind, our soul.
3. Our pois - oned roots can nev - er bear the fruit that you would give.



Do you still claim us as your own, al - though we're steeped in sin?
We dare not trust your guid - ing hand, we ___ cling to our ___ con - trol.
Up - root the ev - ils we hold dear, that we might grow ___ and live.



Our ___ feet stray from the path you've laid while our lips still praise your name;
We ___ craft our like - ness - es of you to ___ mir - ror our own face,
You've nev - er giv - en up on us, in ___ spite of ___ all we've been;



do you still reach out your hand to us, or ___ turn a - way in shame?
for - get - ting that your i - mage lives in ___ ev - ery land and race.
help ___ us to not give up on you, let ___ your new church be - gin!

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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

LOVE Offering for the month of March is going to *One Great Hour of Sharing*, an offering collected by UCC churches across the country that combine to involve us collectively in disaster relief services, from aiding Ukrainian and other refugees, to those affected by natural disasters. *Envelopes can be found in your pew backs or where you pick up bulletins in the sanctuary.*

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS



Practices for
Resurrection

a "no pre-work" Lenten small group—just show up!

Wednesdays, 5pm-6pm
March 9 - April 6

[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!](#)

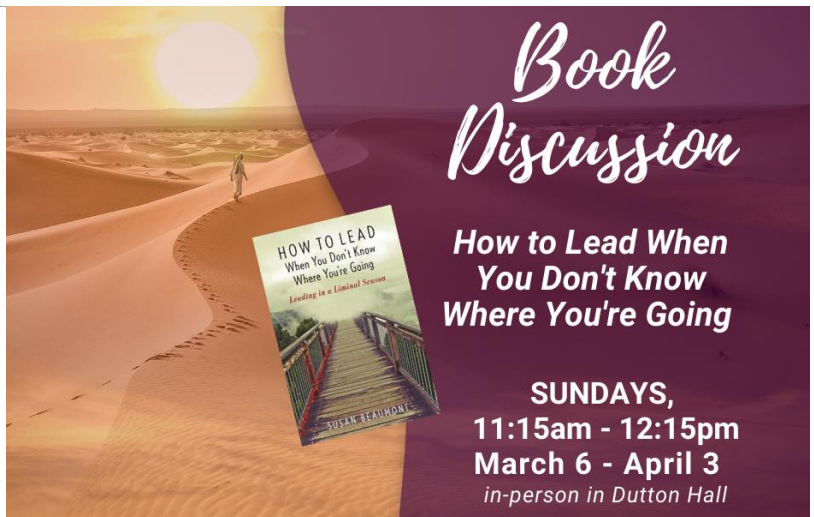
Richard Rohr reminds us that all transformation takes place when we are in between the familiar and the completely unknown. Scripture often illustrates this setting as "the wilderness."

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!](#)



Book Discussion

How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going

SUNDAYS,
11:15am - 12:15pm
March 6 - April 3
in-person in Dutton Hall

“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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