

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association



TRANSFORMED IN THE WILDERNESS

lent 2022

March 27, 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

We gather in the presence of a God who draws forth life in the wilderness.
And we remember how the Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

The Israelites found God in the wilderness.

We remember how Jacob's lies and shame were disrupted by 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 “How Great Thou Art” vv. 1,2,4 (p.4)

Centering Moment

*“I used to think the wilderness would never end. I called my mom and asked—
‘Does time really heal all wounds? Do the pieces ever fall back into place? Does the wilderness go on forever?’*

So she told me about the horizon. She said, ‘There is an edge where the earth meets the sky.

And when you’re there, you will see daisies in the sidewalk and the sun after the rain.’

I asked her to draw me a map, and she cried, because she knew this road was mine to walk.

But she promised to wait for me, day in and day out, for as long as the wilderness raged on.

So I walked.

And it felt like forty days and it hurt like forty nights.

And I waved to the people I passed there in the wilderness.

We tipped our hats, silently recognizing the weight we each carried.

Until one day, I realized—the earth always kisses the sky.

And this wilderness has turned into a garden, and I have made it out alive.

And my mother hugged me, there at the earth’s edge.

And she whispered in my ear, that God was that gardener, and that I had nothing to fear.

So if you ever ask for a map. Know that God and I will be planting seeds,

Hoping to turn your wilderness into a garden.

For as long as the wilderness rages on, we will never stop looking for you where the earth kisses the sky.

~ “The Wilderness is a Place of New Life—Resilient Life” 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 "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" (vv. 1,3-4; p.5)

Scripture [Genesis 32:22-31; John 3:1-17](#)

Sermon "The Place Where Courage and Blessing Are Found"

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 "We Yearn, O Christ, For Wholeness" (p.6)

Benediction

Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

Those serving us this morning are:

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

Ushers: Paula von Ende and Skip & Beverly Schramer — Ushers scheduled for next Sunday, April 3rd: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen & Bev Whildin.

The poem, "The Wilderness is a Place of New Life—Resilient Life" is by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Used with permission. CCLI License #3234671

How Great Thou Art



1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion



con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,
and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.



I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,
when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,
Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,



thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.
and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;
he bled and died, to take a-way my sin;
and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God to thee;



how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my



soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler



- 1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - eler; come to me with your dis - tress;
- 2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's light;
- 3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with me.
- 4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - eler; rest in me and do not fear.



come to me, you heav - y bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright."
Take my yoke, I am be - side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

This paraphrase and expansion of Matthew 11:28–30 by a Canadian minister is structured so that the first three syllables of each stanza provide the hymn's skeleton and summary. The immediacy of the text is enhanced by the folksong-like setting later composed for it.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991
MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.

AUSTIN
8.7.8.7

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.

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

Thank you to everyone that donated to *CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates*, the recipient of our Jan-Feb LOVE offering. Together, we raised \$ 530.

LENTEN SMALL GROUPS



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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