

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association



TRANSFORMED IN THE WILDERNESS

lent 2022

March 6, 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 hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

God created 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 grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

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

Passing the Peace

Gathering Hymn “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” (p.5)

Centering Moment

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

“I’m not the first. That’s what I tell myself when I wake up in the wilderness—

Big sky, worried heart, wondering which way to start.

I have been here before. We have been here before. For as long as there has been creation,
There has been wilderness.

So, like a child memorizing their home address, you’d think I’d learn my way out of this wilderness.

But like the Israelites who wandered for forty years, I think I’ll spend most of my days here.

For the wilderness is everywhere that I start to grow.

Cracks in the sidewalk, daisies take hold.

And the wilderness is every single place of unknown,

Or when shame and fear move into my home.

And the wilderness is where dusty feet tread, familiar with the truth that we have days left.

So where is God in this wilderness, you ask?

God is in the big sky and in my worried heart. God is the sidewalk cracks where new life starts.

God is in the realization that I am not the first.

So may we take these limited days left, and remember that we’ve been here before—

God and I and this untamed world.

God and the Israelites and the gathered assembly.

God and the horizon and the new day Beginning.”

~ “The Wilderness is Somewhere We’ve Been Before” 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 Want Jesus to Go With Me" vv. 1 & 2 (p.5)

Scripture [Genesis 1 \(excerpts\); Luke 4:1-13](#)

Sermon "Into the Wilderness with God"

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

Invitation

Sung Response "Feed Us, Lord" (p.6)

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 "Will You Come and Follow Me" (p.6)

Benediction

Postlude

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

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

I Want Jesus to Go With Me

1 I want Je - sus to go with me;
 2 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

I want Je - sus to go with me;
 In my tri - als, O com - fort me;
 When I'm in trou - ble, O stay with me;

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

O I want Je - sus to go with me.
 O I want Je - sus to com - fort me.
 O I want Je - sus to stay with me.

Feed Us, Lord



1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
 2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
 3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord, with the bread and wine
 4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour - ished here by Christ,



be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
 may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
 of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
 giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

Will You Come and Follow Me?



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 4. God, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, — will you let my name be known, —
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare — should your life at - tract or scare? —
 Will you use the faith you've found — to re - shape the world a - round, —
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go — where your love and foot - steps show. —



— will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
 — Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 — through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
 — Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

WORSHIP NOTES

Those serving us this morning are:

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

Ushers: *Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen & Bev Whildin* — Ushers scheduled for next Sunday, Mar. 13th: *Roger Jacobson, Gip Seaver, Judy Winter & Ruth Olle.*

The Call to Worship and poem, "The Wilderness is Somewhere We've Been Before" are by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org and are 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



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!](#)

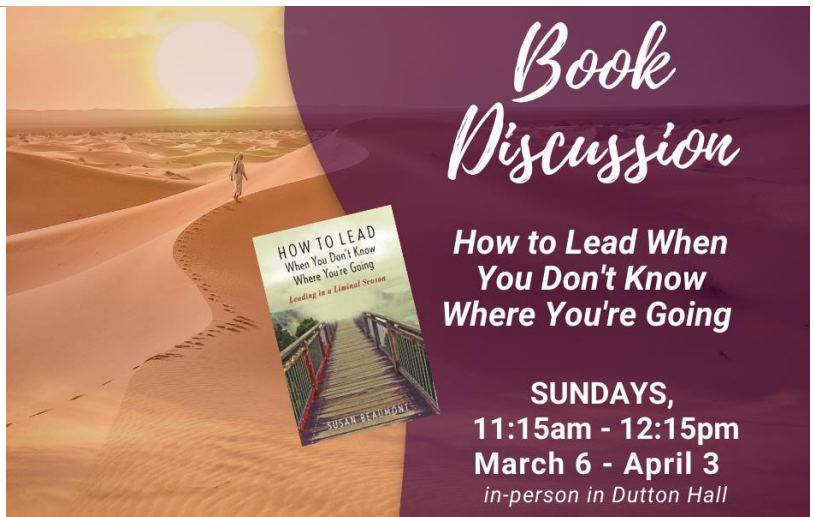
Richard Rohr reminds us that all transformation takes place when we are in between the familiar and the completely unknown. Scripture often illustrates this setting as "the wilderness."

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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