

# The Federated Church

*United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association*



## TRANSFORMED IN THE WILDERNESS

lent 2022

**April 3, 2022 | 10:00**

## Order of Worship

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

### Prelude

### Welcome & Passing the Peace

### Gathering Hymn “Womb of Life, and Source of Being” (lyrics on p.4)

### Centering Moment

First, we have to name it—the heartbreak, the addiction, the shame, the grief.

Whatever your wilderness is, first we have to name it.

And once we’ve said those words out loud,

We let that truth hang in the air. We let ourselves feel what we feel,

For in this moment, we are close to the surface.

And after a few deep breaths, we begin the removing. Piece by piece, we take our armor off,

For truth-telling days are soft skin kind of days.

And once we are armor-free, hearts on our sleeves and tears in our throats,  
we stand toe-to-toe with the very hurt that wrecked us. And we don’t try to swallow that pain away.

And there, in all our beautiful God-given honesty, we say to that monster:

“I have love on my side, her name is God, and no wilderness can separate me from that north star.”

And I believe this will be the bravest thing you ever do.

And your knees might shake, and you might lose your way,

But our God is a God of second chances.

So take my hand.

You are close to the surface.

Let’s be brave together.

~ “The Wilderness is a Place Where We Are Brave” by Sarah Are

*When have you confronted fear with courage in the past? What did that look like?*

*What might it look like to have the courage to face your fear in your present wilderness?*

### 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 (p.4)

**Scripture**      [Genesis 32:31, 33:1-17a & Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

**Sermon**      “In the Wilderness, Prodigal Love Returns Us Home”

## **Musical Meditation**

## **Holy Communion**

**Invitation & Sung Response** “All Belong Here” (p.5)

**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** “O God, How We Have Wandered” (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:** *Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen & Bev Whildin* — *Ushers scheduled for next Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: 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.*

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**Womb of Life, and Source of Being**  
*sung to tune of Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

Verse 1

**Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart  
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start  
We, your children gather 'round you, at the table you prepare  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care**

Verse 2

**Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend  
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend  
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be  
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity**

Verse 3

**Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one  
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new  
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you**

**O Christ, Surround Me**



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:



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

# All Belong Here

Musical score for the song "All Belong Here". The score is written in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and common time (C). It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the chorus: "Come and re-mem-ber who you are here. Do this to— re-mem-ber who I". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "am. Come and re-mem - ber you be - long here. All be-". Above the notes in the second staff are the chord symbols A, D, and B m7. The third staff contains the melody for the third line: "long here." Above the notes in the third staff is the chord symbol G. The score ends with a double bar line.

Come and re-mem-ber who you are here. Do this to— re-mem-ber who I  
am. Come and re-mem - ber you be - long here. All be-  
long here.

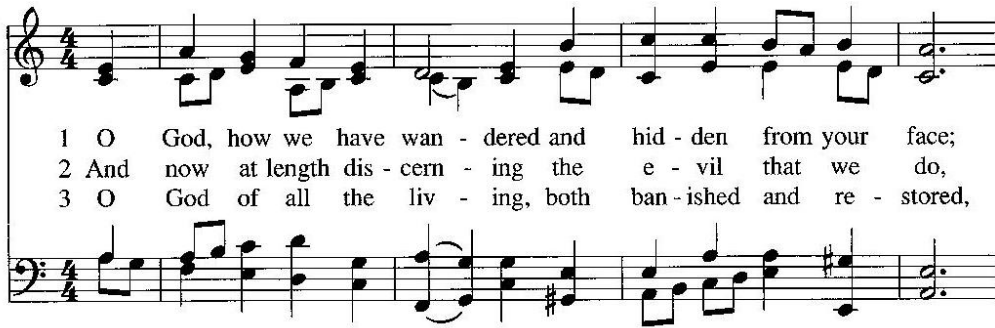
## Verse 1

*When you're not sure who you really are, when all you feel is the shape of your scars  
And you have more wounds than you can count  
Open your eyes, look all around, you aren't alone, this is your home (to chorus)*

## Verse 2

*When you don't know how to forgive, when locked doors seem like the only way to live  
And you've got more questions than you can count  
Open your eyes, look all around, you aren't alone, this is your home (to chorus)*

# O God, How We Have Wandered



1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,  
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

# ***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**

**Recycle & Reuse:** We'll recycle & reuse our bulletin "shells" during Lent. Before leaving, please place them in the basket at the bottom of the stairs to Dutton Hall. Thank you!

**April's LOVE Offering** is for our *Fall Backpack & School Supplies Drive* for low-income students in DeKalb County. Under the leadership of church members Sharon McKee and Sherry Jones, we have made this a local mission of the church for many years. Sharon and Sherry work with DCFS and other local agencies to determine what is needed. The congregation then volunteers to help fill the backpacks in August. The monetary support to purchase the supplies comes from the congregation as well. *Envelopes are available by the bulletins.* For checks, please note in the memo "School supplies."

**Many Thanks** to everyone who donated in March to the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering. Together, we are sending \$635 to the United Church of Christ to help with humanitarian relief in Ukraine and other areas of need throughout the world.

## 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!](#)

**Book Discussion**

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

**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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**Church Office Phone:** (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** [Office@fedsycamore.org](mailto:Office@fedsycamore.org)

**Pastor Eric Cell:** (815) 797-2250 || **Email:** [RevEric@fedsycamore.org](mailto:RevEric@fedsycamore.org)

**Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough**

**Phone:** (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** [Preschool@fedsycamore.org](mailto:Preschool@fedsycamore.org)

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