



# ***YOU* ARE WELCOME HERE!**

## **A warm WELCOME to those visiting or checking out Federated Church!**

We're glad you're here! Are you looking for more information about who we are, what we do, or how to get involved? Would you like to meet with Pastor Eric or get connected to others? In the book rack on the back of the pew toward the center aisle, you will find a green or red "pew pad" with a yellow bookmark-sized "Connection Card" inside. Fill it out and place it in the offering plate as they are passed around during the "Offertory," and we will be in touch with you soon!

## **Federated Church is an Open & Affirming Community**

In a time of deep division and vitriolic rhetoric around issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and where 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 persons to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

## Order of Worship

All music is from the **Black New Century Hymnal** in your pew back, unless noted otherwise  
\* indicates those places where you are invited to rise in body or spirit

### Prelude

### Welcome & \*Passing the Peace

\***Gathering Song** “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” (p.5)

### Centering Moment

*“Breath Prayer” is an ancient Christian form of prayer, a way of centering oneself by choosing one or two lines to meditate on, and to inhale / exhale through them. This form of prayer helps us to unite the prayer with our bodies/full being (and not just our minds).*

*Begin by becoming aware of your body: feel the seat and ground beneath you; sit in a way that is comfortable; open yourself to the quote below and to the memory it evokes for you. For the next minute or two, we invite you to close your eyes, take slow deep breaths in and out, and let your body relax as you either breathe through the Breath Prayer (which is based on the quote), pray through the Silent Prayer, or simply sit in silence. Afterward, we will join together in the Prayer that Jesus taught us.*

“It is not unusual to sift through ashes and find an unburnt picture” ~ Nikki Giovanni

### Breath Prayer

*Inhale: “I journey into the memory” | Exhale: “I reclaim the beautiful”*

*Inhale: “I reclaim my selfhood” | Exhale: “Tragedy is not my name”*

### Silent Prayer (pray on your own in the silence)

God of the ashes, remind us our story is more than pain. It is tempting to walk away from the past, the terrors, the tragedies, never to return. But in doing, we can also lose grip of the beautiful, the good. Keep us from rushing into the ashes before lamenting and tending to our wounds. But no story is all pain. So when we're ready, help us to revisit our memories. Guide our hands as we sift through the rubble in search of stories and parts of ourselves we are prepared to reclaim. And let us rise, protected, whole.

### 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** “Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling” vv. 1 & 3 (p.5)

**Scripture** Mark 12:28-34; James 2:1-5, 14-26

**Sermon** “Faith Beyond Belief”

**Anthem** “Song of Thanks” *Nagy*

### **Our Shared Life**

**Offering Opportunities**

**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** “Don’t Tell Me of a Faith that Fears” vv. 1, 2, 5 (p.6)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*While the postlude plays, we invite you to join us in Dutton Hall for coffee & fellowship*

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## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning are:*

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin | **Liturgist:** Sharon McKee

**Ministers:** All of us! | **Ushers:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason | *Ushering next Sunday, September 25: Skip & Bev Schramer, Paul von Ende*

All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

The Centering Prayer and Breath Prayer come from Cole Arthur Riley, via @BlackLiturgies. For more, follow @Black Liturgies on Instagram or @ColeArthurRiley on Facebook.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## September Love Offering: CROP Hunger Walk

The September Love Offering will support CROP Walk. Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary. For checks, please write CROP Walk in the memo section.

The Sondra King Memorial CROP Hunger Walk is October 2 and steps off from The Federated Church of Sycamore at 2 pm. It is sponsored by Church World Service to end hunger here and around the world. 75% of funds raised will be used to fight global hunger and 25% of the donations will go to DeKalb County Community Gardens.

## “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2 Here I pause in my so - jour-n-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.  
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

## “Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling”



1. Spir - it I have heard you call - ing, like a mem - 'ry long grown dim, cry - ing  
3. Since you moved u - pon my wa - ters, since you spoke and set me free, I have



from cre - a - tion's mo - ment, seek - ing voice from deep with - in. I have  
yearned for this com - mu - nion, for your fire in - side of me! Now your



heard you in my long - ing, I have heard you in my pain. Now I  
love de - fines my long - ing, now your love shines through my pain. Now we

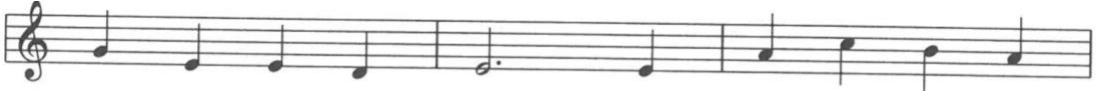


feel you mov - ing in me, feel you burn - ing like a flame.  
dance in end - less un - ion, sing - ing out cre - a - tion's name.

## “Don’t Tell Me of a Faith that Fears”



1. Don't tell me of a faith that fears to  
 2. Don't speak of pi - e - ty and prayers di -  
 3. Don't sate my soul with com - mon sense dis -  
 4. Don't set the cross be - fore my eyes un -  
 5. So let the Gos - pel come a - live in



face the world a - round; don't dull my mind with  
 vorced from hu - man need; don't talk of spi - rit  
tilled from a - ges past, in - ept for those who  
 less you tell the truth of how the Lord who  
 ac - tions plain to see, in im - i - ta - tion



fick - le thoughts of grace with - out a ground.  
 with - out flesh like har - vest with - out seed.  
fear the world's a - bout to breathe its last.  
 finds the lost was of - ten found un - couth.  
 of the one whose love ex - tends to me.



Chorus: I \_\_\_ need to know that God is \_\_\_ real, I \_\_\_ need to know that Christ can feel the



need to touch and love and heal the world in - clu - ding me.

# OUR FEDERATED VALUES

## **We believe in God**

At the center of our faith is the surprising, unsettling, and deeply personal God found in the Bible, most profoundly revealed in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. At Federated, our primary interest is not merely talking *about* God, but in *encountering* the Mysterious Force at the heart of the universe. This is a God who comforts us where we need to be comforted and challenges us where we've become complacent. This is a God who will not be confined to dogmatic teachings, nor even to the Bible. We believe that we are invited to encounter this God everywhere: in nature, science, one another, and in other religious traditions as well.

## **Each person is on a unique spiritual journey**

We value faith as a journey rather than a destination. We recognize that each person is at a different place on their journey, so we focus on “testimonies” of faith rather than “tests” of faith; stories of how we are being transformed, rather than dogmas we must affirm. Here, you are welcome to belong, question, explore, and lead whether you grew up in church and loved it, or you've had a painful relationship with Christianity; you are welcome whether you feel your faith is unshakeable or you're not sure if you believe in God at all. You are welcome to join a community of people "on the way": encouraging and caring for one another, learning and growing together, and serving alongside each other as we build, in some small way, the world we believe God dreams of.

## **Building authentic community across our differences**

We are an "Open and Affirming" congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that the simple but courageous work of showing up and being together in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

## **We believe in peace through justice**

In this congregation, conversations regarding racism, sexism, poverty, war, immigration, homophobia, hunger, abuse, and a host of other issues are commonplace, both from the pulpit and around the table. We know that the Realm of God is not being experienced on earth so long as people are being hurt. With Martin Luther King Jr., we believe that we are all "caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny," and that "none of us can be free until all are free." Which means that, as a community, we have a God-given responsibility and mission to work for justice and healing in our neighborhood and beyond. Jesus says: "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). This work is defined not merely by what we are against, but the vision we are for—flourishing for *all*!



# ***“Welcoming Any, Loving All”***

*The Federated Church is affiliated with two national denominations:  
the United Church of Christ & the Unitarian Universalist Association*



Follow us on

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@FederatedChurchSycamore



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