

# The Federated Church

***United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association***



*September 25, 2022*

# ***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** “Dream God’s Dream” (p.5)

### Centering Moment

*“Breath Prayer” is an ancient Christian form of prayer done by choosing a line or two to meditate on, and to inhale / exhale through them. This helps us to unite our prayer with our bodies/full being (and not just our minds). | Begin by becoming aware of your body: take slow deep breaths; let your body relax; open yourself to the quote(s) below and whatever is evoked. As you sit with the quote(s), we invite you to do the Breath Prayer, pray through the Silent Prayer, or simply sit in silence. Feel free to focus on just one of these. Afterward, we will join together in The Lord’s Prayer.*

“It is for freedom Christ has set us free.” Galatians 5:1

“I think we can be fully free yet still have the capacity to become more free.

Maybe this is heaven... Liberation is an unending awakening. It is something we can both meet and walk away from within the same hour.” ~ Cole Arthur Riley

### Breath Prayer

Inhale: “I am free to change.” | Exhale: “And I have compassion on my now.”

Inhale: “I am not alone.” | Exhale: “We get free together.”

### Silent Reflection

- ❖ What—within yourself and/or in our world—is keeping you from becoming more free—*truly* free?
- ❖ Who are your partners on this journey? How do you need to invite them in?
- ❖ Sometimes, we become so used to the yoke of bondage, of unfreedom, that pursuing freedom feels scarier than remaining bound by what’s familiar | What truth is God inviting you to be awakened to, a truth necessary for growing in true freedom, that you’ve been putting off because it’s scary/uncomfortable?

### 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** “God Who Sees Us” (p.6)

## **Scripture**

**Sermon** “God’s Salvation is Liberation”

## **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.*

**Prayers of the People & Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sending Hymn** #574 “In Egypt Under Pharaoh”

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

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

+ + +

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning are:*

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

**Ministers:** All of us! | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende, Skip & Bev Schramer | *Ushering next Sunday, October 2: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, & Bev Whildin*

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

The Breath Prayer comes 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 CROP Hunger Walk is on 10/2 and steps off from our own Federated Church at 2pm. It’s sponsored by Church World Service, which works to end hunger here and around the world. 75% of donations will go to fight global hunger and 25% will go to DeKalb County Community Gardens. Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary (*write ‘CROP Walk’ in the memo*).

# "Dream God's Dream"

By Bryan Sirchio



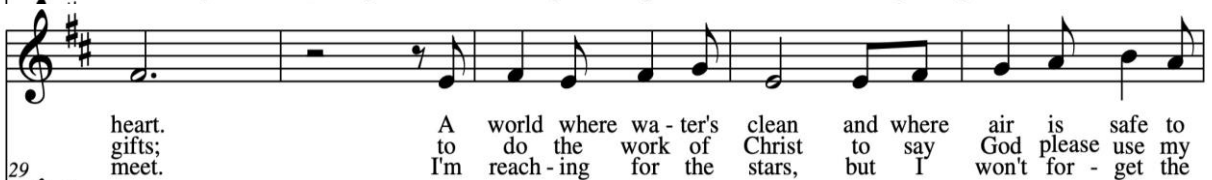
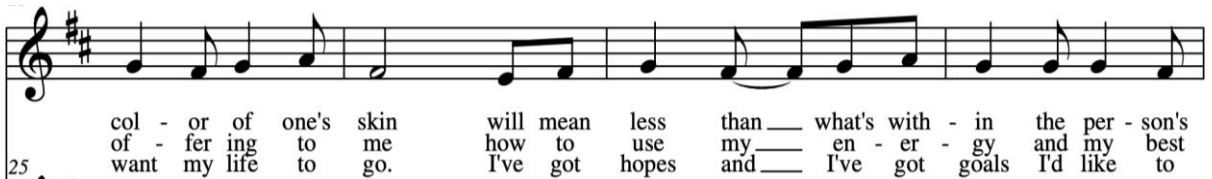
**Chorus:** Dream God's



*Last time to Coda*



**Verses:** 1. I'm dream-ing — of a world, where the  
2. I'm dream-ing — of the call God is  
3. I'm dream-ing — of the way that I



*to chorus*

# “God Who Sees Us”

By Gloria Fanchiang

1. We have been — for - got - ten and — a - ban - doned —  
 2. God, You know the pain — of lo - sing fa - mily —

Cast a - side, — e - rased, — and coun - ted out —  
 Je - sus, You — are weep - ing with — us now —

13 Cen - tur - ies — of ha - tred and ex - clu - sion —  
 17 As we face — op - pres - sion. blame and vio - lence — You're

Sto - ries lost — and rare - ly talked a - bout — Yet the  
 draw - ing near — to com - fort, hear us out — You re -

21 poor - est are — Your cho - sen Your fa - vored are the least — You are  
 25 vealed Your - self — to Ha - gar A fo - reign girl en - slaved — In her

near - est to — the out - cast They are the ones You seek —  
 29 time of des - pe - ra - tion You met her on the way —

You are the God — who sees — us You are the God — who hears

— You know we long for jus - tice You wit - ness all — our tears

— Though the world ig - nores our pain — Our cries to You — are not in vain

— You see us, God You see us and — You hear —

# 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  
Facebook & Instagram:  
@FederatedChurchSycamore



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