

***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 moments in the service where you are invited to stand or rise in spirit

Prelude

Welcome & *Passing the Peace

***Gathering Song** “Dream God’s Dream” vv. 1 & 2 (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.

“No matter how obsessed you’ve been with your own vanishing, there will always be someone who still wants you whole.” ~ Hanif Abdurraqib

Breath Prayer

Inhale: “I know who I am.” | Exhale: “I can honor the sound of me.”

Inhale: “I don’t have to pretend.” | Exhale: “I will honor the sound of others.”

Silent Prayer

God who knows, we can only pretend for so long. Our faces grow tired under the weight of our masks. We long to be seen, and we’re terrified to be seen. We find ourselves in rooms where, in order to belong, we must disguise and diminish ourselves. Help us to reclaim the sound of our truest voice. Let our belonging begin at the site of our truth telling, as we honor our thoughts, needs, and emotions, and liberate others to do likewise. Amen.”

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 #292 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

Scripture

[John 3:1-10](#)

Sermon "Born Again Anew From Above"

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

Invitation & Sung Response "All Belong Here" *refrain* (p.6)

Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Our Shared Life

Offering Opportunities

Offertory Anthem "Come, Feed My Lambs" *Paterson*

***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** "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us" (p. 7)

Benediction

Postlude

While the postlude plays, 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:** Pam Kitterman

Ministers: All of us! | **Ushers:** *Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, & Bev Whildin* | *Ushering next Sunday, October 9: Roger Jacobson, Gip Seaver, Judy Winter, & Ruth Olle*

All hymns are used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Masking Update — In early September, we installed UV-C lights in our HVAC (air-filtration) system. This cycles the air in the sanctuary and Dutton Hall several times per hour.

As it does, the UV lights kill covid and other viruses before blowing the clean air back into the room. You'll note that we are no longer requiring masks in worship.

“Dream God’s Dream”

By Bryan Sirchio



Chorus: Dream God's



Dream!— Ho-ly Spir - it— help us dream of a world where— there is



jus - tice— and where ev' - ry one is free to build and grow and love, and to



sim - ply have e - nough the world will change, when we dream God's Dream.



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



col - or of one's skin will mean less than — what's with - in the per - son's
of - fer ing to me how to use my — en - er - gy and my best
25 want my life to go. I've got hopes and — I've got goals I'd like to



heart. A world where wa - ter's clean and where air is safe to
gifts; to do the work of Christ to say God please use my
meet. I'm reach - ing for the stars, but I won't for - get the
29



breathe. And ev' - ry — chi - ld born has e - nough to eat...
life to spread Your — heal - ing love and to live Your Truth...
34 scars of Christ who — died to show that the Dream's for all...

to chorus

“All Belong Here”

Lenora Rand / The Many



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)*

“Like a Mother Who Has Born Us”

1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and

bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

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



www.fedsycamore.org

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

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

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

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

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