

***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** “O for a World” (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 full being (not just our minds). | Begin by becoming aware of your body: take slow deep breaths; let your body relax; open yourself to the quote below & whatever is evoked. As you meditate on the quote and silent reflection questions, we invite you to do the Breath Prayer, or to simply sit in silence. Afterward, we will join together in The Lord’s Prayer.

“Somewhere along the line, I was taught that in order to be human, I needed to convince white people that I’m human... I had been taught that in order to accomplish justice, I needed to convince white people that I am worthy of justice.”

~ Dr. Christena Cleveland

Breath Prayer

Inhale: “My flesh is sacred.” | Exhale: “My dignity cannot be diminished.”

Inhale: “Your flesh is sacred.” | Exhale: “You contain the divine.”

Silent Reflection

Have you experienced what Dr. Cleveland describes—having to convince others to care about you, convince them that you’re worthy of being seen as equal and treated with dignity? Be attentive to the feelings this brings up.

Are there people—whether individuals or groups—that you have seen as suspect until they prove themselves innocent? People who’ve had to convince you that they are human and worthy of love, dignity, and justice?

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 “Prayer of St. Francis” (p.6)

Scripture [Ephesians 2:1-10](#); [John 3:11-21](#)

Sermon “Eternity Life: Already and Not Yet”

Anthem “Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You” *Althouse*

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** “Lead Us From Death to Life” (p. 7 &8)

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:** Sharon McKee

Ministers: All of us! | **Ushers:** Roger Jacobson, Gip Seaver, Judy Winter & Ruth Olle

Ushering next Sunday, October 16: Nate Kitterman, Pam Kitterman, and Linda Mason

All hymns 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.

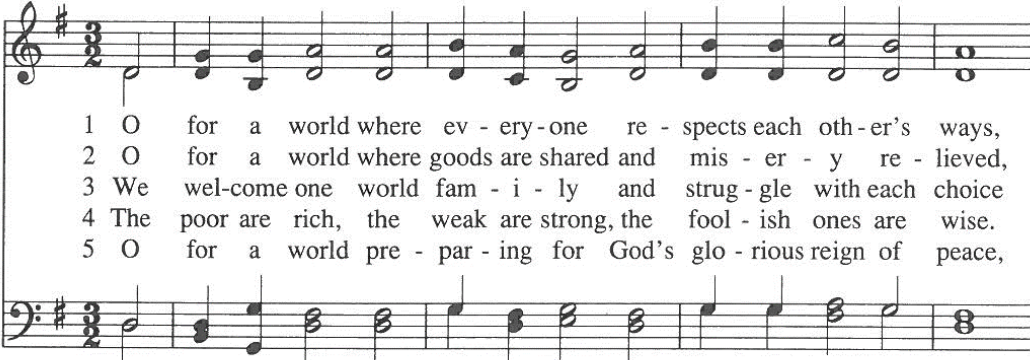
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

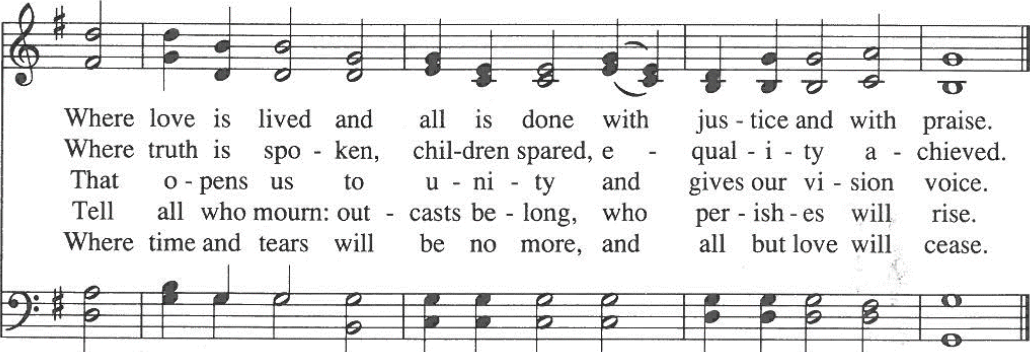
Missed a Sermon? Watch online! Every Tuesday, the sermon from the previous Sunday will be available to watch or listen to on our website. You can also find any of Pastor Eric's previous sermons in our sermon archive. Watch them all at www.fedsycamore.org/sermons.

Coming up! Next Sunday, we begin our Stewardship Season. For several weeks, we will focus on why it matters that Federated Church exists—what difference does our presence and our ministries make in people's lives and in our community—and we will ask ourselves what we will commit to giving in order to grow and deepen these vital ministries and their impact in the year ahead. We hope you'll join us to reflect both on what has been and what might be!

"O for a World"



1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

**“Prayer of St. Francis”
(Make Me a Channel of Your Peace)**



4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. For



it is in the lov-ing that we find love. It



is in the giv-ing that we re-ceive. And in



dy-ing that we're born a-new

“Lead Us from Death to Life”

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

s-pair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of four systems. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with guitar chords. The chords are: C, C7, F, G, C, G/B, Am, Dm7, C7/E, E7, Em, Am, Dm7, C/E, Dm/F, C/G, G7, and C. The lyrics are: "Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de - spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse." The score ends with the instruction "to Stanzas".

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

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