

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ † Unitarian Universalist Association

FROM
BREAD
AND
CUP
TO
FAITH
AND
GIVING



Stewardship 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 | October 23, 2022

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** “Come O Fount of Every Blessing” (p.4)

Centering Moment

“Gratitude is defiance of sorts, the defiance of kindness in the face of anger, of connection in the face of division, and of hope in the face of fear. It untwists knotted hearts, waking us to a new sense of who we are as individuals and in community. Being thankful is the very essence of what it means to be alive, and to know that life abundantly.”

~ Dr. Diana Butler Bass, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*

Silent Reflection & Prayer

Have you had opportunities to practice “gratitude as defiance” in these kinds of ways lately—and failed? (If you’re human, there’s a good chance you have! 😊).

Reflect on one or two such moments and consider what it might have looked like for you to choose this kind of gratitude. Rather than feeling guilty or ashamed, begin with compassion & understanding; forgive yourself. As you sit with that, consider “practicing gratitude” by acknowledging your misstep to whomever it was with, and let them know you will try choose gratitude in the future.

Dear God, open my eyes that I may become alert to gratitude throughout the day. Help me bridge the gap between knowing about gratitude and living in gratitude. Free me from guilt about the gap, replacing it with the joy of discovery and an eagerness for change. 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 “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” (p.5)

Scripture

[John 13:1-15, 34-35](#); [1 Corinthians 11:17-24](#)

Sermon "Fed at Federated to Feed the World"

Musical Meditation "Think on These Things" *Mark Patterson*
Amy Tonaki, Cellist

Our Shared Life

Stewardship Testimony

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** "Sing a New World Into Being" (p.6)

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:** Shrestha Singh

Ministers: All of us! | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende, Skip Schramer, & Beverly Schramer

Worship will not be held next Sunday due to Pumpkin Festival activities. Ushering the following Sunday, November 6: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, Bev Whildin.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Federated Church 101, *Sunday, Nov. 27th or Dec. 11th, following worship*

So... you've started worshipping with us, receiving the newsletter, and maybe even had coffee with Pastor Eric. But we're guessing you still have questions. Maybe you are coming from a different Christian tradition and wonder how Federated is similar or different. Or maybe you've never been part of a church and are wondering how this whole thing works. Or maybe you're wondering who else might be new and are looking for a chance to connect. Or perhaps you think you like what you've experienced so far, but you're wondering how to take the next step: what opportunities are there to explore your faith with others, or to volunteer and serve, or...???

If any of this sounds like you, then we invite you to join Pastor Eric for a "Federated 101"—a chance to finally ask that question you've had, to learn a bit more about who we are and to connect with others while doing so.

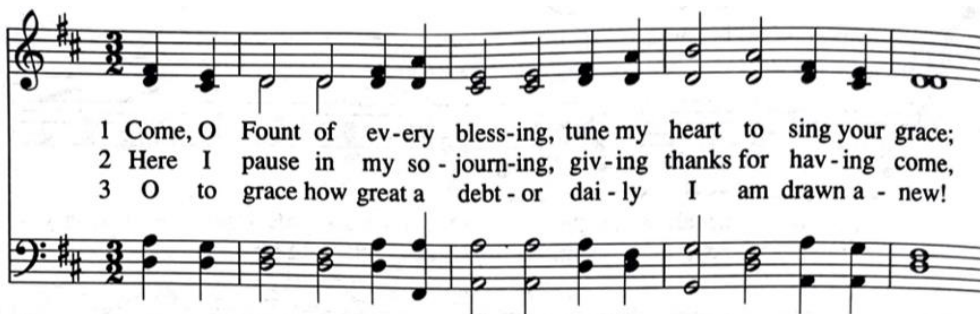
Email Pastor Eric (reveric@fedsycamore.org) by Wed. November 23 to attend, and indicate which of the two Sundays above you could do so.

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.

October Love Offering will go to **Neighbors in Need**, a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

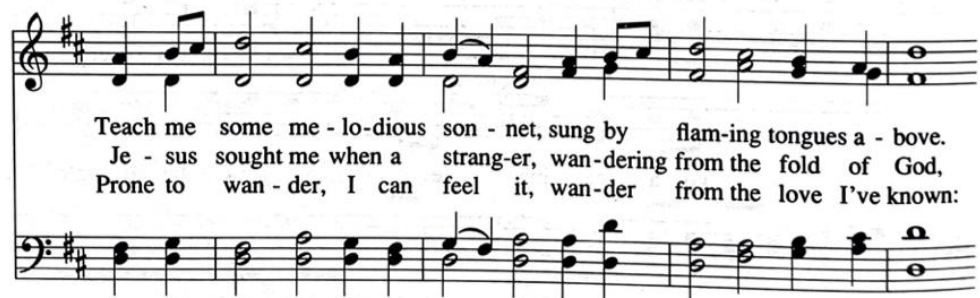
“Come O Fount of Every Blessing”



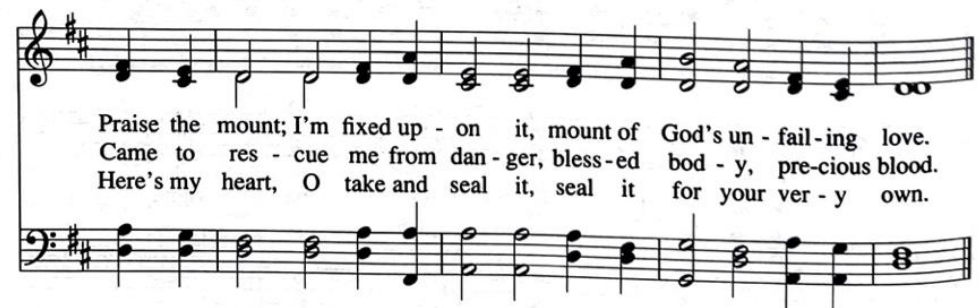
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



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.

“Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

“Sing a New World into Being”



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der, class, and race
Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home,
Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient pro - phet's cry



Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no child - ren ev - er hun - ger but are filled in God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a___ church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vid - ed form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all___ peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all___ hate and ven - geance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing; risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the pro - mise you be - lieve!

FROM BREAD AND CUP TO FAITH AND GIVING



All Things in Common

(based on Acts 2: 43-47)

Rev. Sekinah Hamlin (she/her/hers)

Minister for Economic Justice

United Church of Christ, National Ministries

I grew up with Sunday lunches at my grandmother's dining room table. Members of almost every generation of my family would show up for grandmother's weekly kinship love feast: vegetables seasoned with juicy pork, yam souffle, pot roast, and of course the obligatory gospel bird, chicken. It was a time of fellowship and laughter, Bible study and personal accountability, leader development and community economic development, and so much more. Guests wondered how so many people would fit in the small house!

My brother's decision to become a vegetarian would change our family's Sunday food lineup forever. To him, family meals that were once a source of love felt oppressive as he was given an extremely limited array of food choices. Through lack of understanding, my grandmother and other relatives felt that as my brother rejected meat, he was rejecting them.

I watched with amazement as the feelings of my family members changed! Slowly they honored his decision. My own mother began to prepare meatless dishes. This made my brother feel more accepted and loved than ever. Around the table, his decision sparked new, health-focused conversations that led everyone to eat healthier diets.

My grandmother's table of love had become new, transformed, and even more loving.

Within the larger human family, many peoples and nations who are seated at the world's table are well-nourished with resources that match their tastes and liking, while others experience the table as an oppressive instrument affording them few choices and options for flourishing. The United Nations developed 17 sustainable development goals that provide a framework for the just "setting" our global table. This was in recognition that we as a global community truly must "hold all things in common" to sustain this planet, global economy, and its people in a healthy way void of poverty and hunger.

An "all things in common" orientation demands a departure from the owner-settler-colonial world view on which much of the world is structured. The Acts text calls us to a new economy that is not market driven. It centers sustainability over profitability and rights our relationships to people and planet. It requires us to respond to God's generosity by sharing the resources of this good world in ways that enable all to enjoy sufficiency without the depletion of the earth. From the early church we glimpse a vision of an economy where all people are to have what they need to be healthy, sheltered, and cared for as they work and as they rest and replenish.

In our relationship with money, what would need to change to practice an "all things in common" economy? Can we practice generosity like my grandmother, creating a table big enough to welcome all our siblings?

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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