

# 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 | November 20, 2022

All music is from the **Black New Century Hymnal** in your pew back, unless noted otherwise.

### Prelude

### Welcome & \*Passing the Peace

We invite you to say “Hi” in the comments and like the video to let us know you’re here.

**Gathering Song** “Dream God’s Dream” vv. 1 & 2 (p.3)

### Centering Moment

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

“The Glory of God is the human being fully alive.” Bishop Irenaeus of Lyon, 2<sup>nd</sup> century

### Silent Prayer & Reflection

What words/images come to mind when you think of vitality?

What would “vitality,” being “fully alive,” look like for you in your life?

Can there be vitality amidst brokenness, hardship, or suffering?

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** “As the Moon” (p.2)

**Scripture** [Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, 39-12:3](#)

**Sermon** “Vitality & Divergent Church”

**Musical Meditation**

**Our Shared Life**  
**Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory Anthem**

“We Are Glad”

Craig Courtney

**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” vv. 1 & 2 (p. 4)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

+ + +

“As the Moon”



As the moon pulls the o - cean so my  
tide rocks the beach - es lift - ing  
sand shapes the shore - line sculpt - ing



soul is drawn to you. Pull me clo - ser as you  
sand as it rolls through, lift us up in - to your  
all the lands a - new, we will shape the world you're



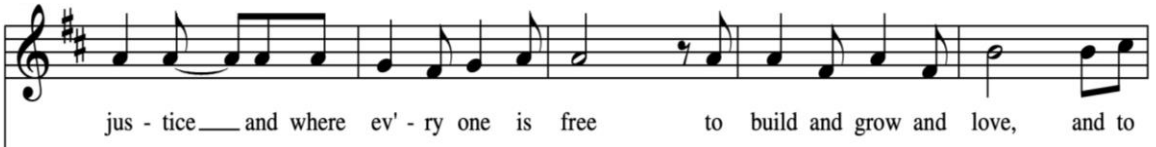
cir - cle; I will fall and rise with you and rise with you  
danc - ing. We will rise and dance with you and dance with you  
dreaming, danc - ing with the ris - ing moon the ris - ing moon

# “Dream God’s Dream”

By Bryan Sirchio



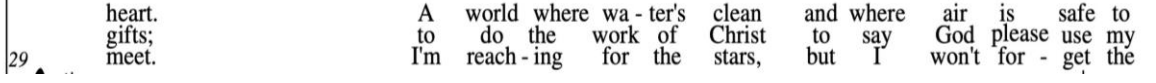
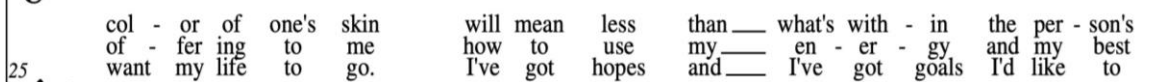
**Chorus:** Dream God's



*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*



34

# “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

spair 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*

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.

## WORSHIP NOTES

*Serving us this morning are:*

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

**Ministers:** All of us! | **Ushers:** *Nate & Pam Kitterman, and Linda Mason*

*Ushering next Sunday, November 27: Paula von Ende, Skip & Beverly Schramer*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**November Love Offering to Benefit Hope Haven**, the area homeless shelter located in DeKalb. When asked, Lesly Wicks, Director of Hope Haven, replied that Hope Haven could really use, a picnic table. So that's **our goal: to raise \$500 to purchase a picnic table** for the Hope Haven outdoor play area. *Envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary.* Donations of any amount are welcome!

**Federated Church 101**, *Sun. 11/27, 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. Or maybe you're trying to find ways to connect, serve, or further explore your faith.

If this sounds like you, then we invite you to "Federated 101"—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others in the same boat to learn a bit more about who we are, to finally ask that question you've had, and to connect with others. *Don't miss out, these conversations only happen a couple times a year!*

**Membership Informational Gathering**, *Sun. 12/11, following worship*

This gathering is for those who've been getting connected and want to take the next step in making Federated "their church;" who are ready to shift from "receiving" what we do to also taking an active role in shaping who we are becoming and what's next for us!

We realize that different churches approach "membership" differently. For us, it's also very different than membership in other social clubs & organizations. This gathering is a space for you to learn more about how decisions are made at Federated, what leadership looks like (and how these are similar to / different from other churches), as well as a chance to ask your honest questions—like: Why does membership even matter?

# 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](http://www.fedsycamore.org)**

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

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

**Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough**

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

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