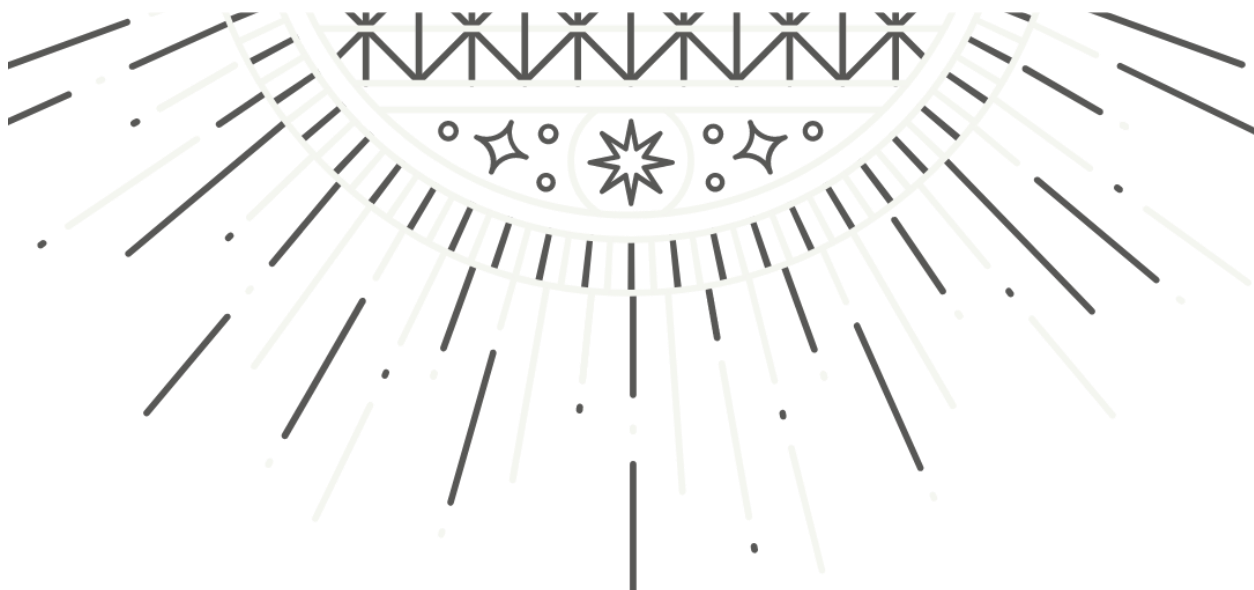


# The Federated Church

*United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association*



# EPIPHANY

**A SEASON OF  
ILLUMINATION & TRANSFIGURATION**

# ***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 | January 15, 2023**

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin*

*We invite you to say "Hi" in the comments and like the video to let us know you're here.*

*Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold***

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome & \*Passing the Peace**

**Gathering Hymn** "Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us" (p. 5)

### **Centering Moment**

**Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing**

**Prayer Stations & Reflection**

*"Be bold like the magi.*

*Do not tarry, setting into your comfort,  
but rather set out, keeping the star in your vision.  
It will lead you to the place you are most in need of,  
the place where God is.*

*And if an angel warns you in a dream  
not to return by the old way,  
please listen."*

"Song on the Feast of Epiphany" by Christine Rodgers

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art 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** "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" vv.1-3 (p. 6)

**Scripture** [Matthew 3:13-17](#); [1 John 3:1-2a](#)

**Sermon** "The Life that Flows from Love"

**Musical Meditation** "Daily Prayer"

## **Our Shared Life & Offering**

### **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.*

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

**Sending Hymn**      “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” vv. 1, 2, 4 (p. 7)

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

† † †

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

Those serving us this morning are:

**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

**Liturgist:** | **Ushers:** *Nate and Pam Kitterman, and Linda Mason*

*Ushers for Sunday, Jan. 22: Paula von Ende and Skip and Beverly Schramer*

All music is used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

# Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

*Daniel Bechtel*

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.

# O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

George Matheson



1 O Love that will not let me go,  
2 O Light that fol - lows all my way,  
3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
4 O Cross that rais - es up my head,



I rest my wea - ry soul in you;  
to you I yield my flick - ering flame;  
to you I can - not close my heart;  
from you I dare not seek to flee;



I give you back the life I owe, that  
Re - new my spir - it's fee - ble ray, that  
I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
Life's glo - ries with - er and are dead, but



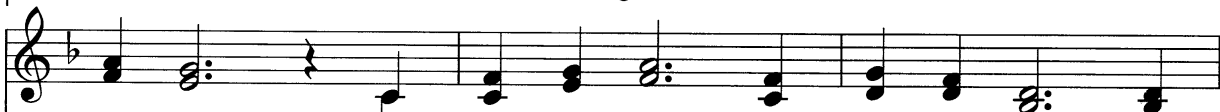
in your o - cean depths its flow may swell with ar - dor true.  
from your bril - liant sun - lit day it may new bright - ness claim.  
know the prom - ise is not vain that you will ne'er de - part.  
from the ground there blos - soms red, life that shall end - less be.

# My Life Flows on in Endless Song

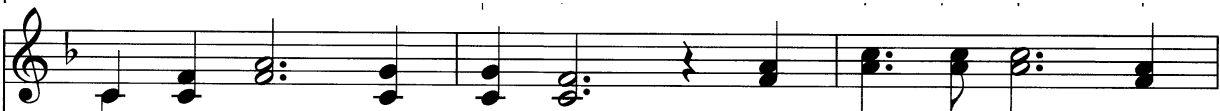
Robert Lowry



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -



ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since



hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes



and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?  
Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Annual Meeting**, *Jan. 22, after worship*

We invite you to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting next Sunday. We will present, discuss, and approve the Federated Church's budget for 2023, an amendment to the Constitution, and the slate of officers/Boards for 2023. Printed copies of documents including the annual report will be available to be picked up in the Settle Room at the Church by Tuesday at noon.

## **Discussion of Amendment to the Constitution**, *today after worship*

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, there will be a brief post-service gathering this Sunday, January 15, for those wanting to learn more about the proposed changes to Federated's Constitution.

**Listen to Sermons Online** —Video of Pastor's sermons are posted each week on our website: [www.fedsycamore.org/sermons](http://www.fedsycamore.org/sermons), and are also available via podcast on Spotify (scan the QR code with your camera app to open!)



**January Love Offering** The Love Offering for January will benefit the Pastor's Emergency Fund. Pastor Eric uses this church fund to help DeKalb County community members pay bills—like rent, medical, or utilities, as well as to buy gas and groceries. For check donations please indicate on the “memo” line Pastor's Emergency Fund. Cash is accepted. All donations should be put in an envelope labeled Love Offering with your name and amount on it. Put the envelope in the offering plate. Checks may also be mailed to the church office.



**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Jan. 16, 6pm at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in DeKalb (1201 Twombly Rd).** Area churches, including Federated Church, are coming together to celebrate and honor Rev. Dr. King's legacy. Join us as we present portions of some of King's most timely speeches and sermons, listen to music and poetry from the New Hope community, and pray together. Pastor Eric has been invited to close the service with a Call to Action as we seek to live out Dr. King's vision here and now in our own community. The service will also be livestreamed via the New Hope Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/NewHopeMBC](https://www.facebook.com/NewHopeMBC)

**Community Film Screening & Panel of "Harriet," Jan. 21, 1-4pm**  
The DeKalb County History Center is partnering with the Sycamore Library and the DeKalb County Community Foundation to offer a showing of the acclaimed film, "Harriet." Pastor Eric has been invited to speak as part of a panel, which will follow the film and provide an opportunity to reflect on the history of the Underground Railroad in DeKalb County, as well as the legacy of racism locally, and what it means to live in the spirit of our abolitionist forbears today.

# 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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@FederatedChurchSycamore



[www.fedsycamore.org](http://www.fedsycamore.org)

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