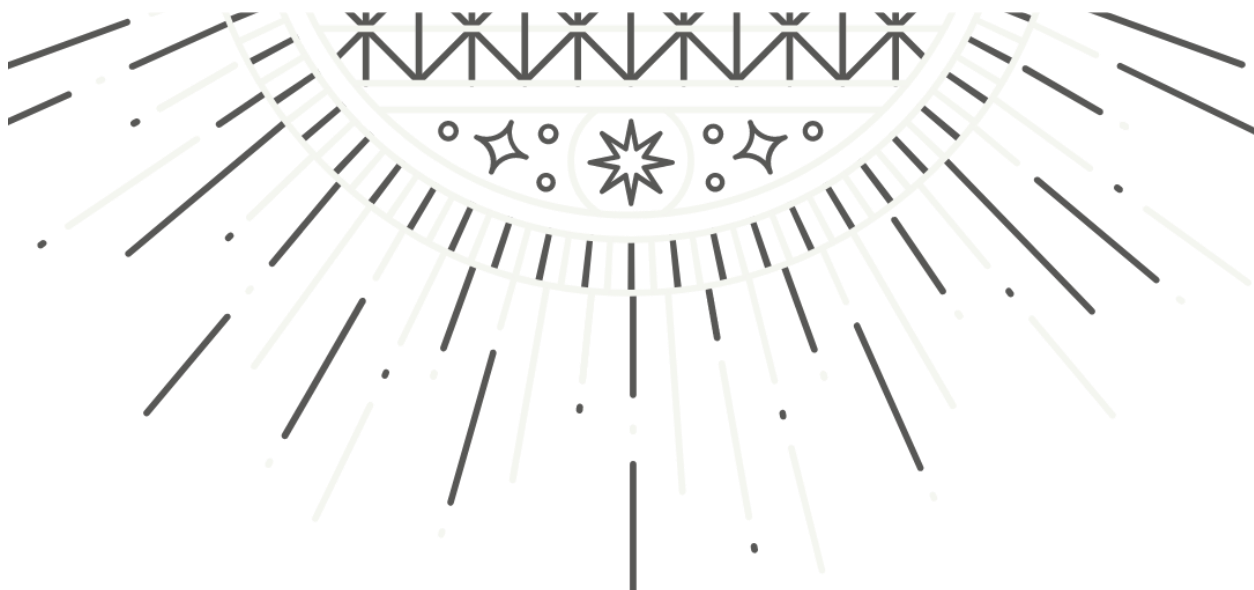


# The Federated Church

*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 22, 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** "Be Now My Vision" (p.5)

### **Centering Moment**

**Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing**

**Prayer Stations & Reflection**

*"And I cried... for all of the women who stretched their bodies  
for civilizations, only to find ruins." ~ Sonia Sanchez*

*"I could no longer participate in an exchange requiring  
acrobatics of self-denial" ~ June Jordan*

*Is there a community or relationship that has forced you to deny part of  
yourself in order to fit in or belong? What might it look like for you to step  
away so you can begin to heal? Or, if you stay connected, what might it  
look like to risk showing up as your full self?*

### **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** "Will You Come and Follow Me?" verse 4 (p.6)

**Scripture** [1 Corinthians 1:10-25](#); [John 3:22-30](#)

**Sermon** "When Less is More"

### **Musical Meditation**

## **Our Shared Life & Offering**

### **Offering Opportunities**

#### **Offertory**

*Gratitude for Service—Peg Vitkus*

#### **\*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** “God of Love, We’ve Known Division” (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:** Pam Kitterman | **Ushers:** *Paula von Ende and Skip and Beverly Schramer*

*Ushers for Sunday, Jan. 29: Alice Whitney and Skip and Beverly Schramer*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Usher Appreciation and Celebration Breakfast**, *next Sunday after worship*

The Board of Deacons are excited to ***invite the entire congregation*** to a full breakfast immediately following worship next Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, to help us thank and celebrate those who’ve served as ushers this past year. Ushers help us welcome folks to worship and make sure our Sunday services run smoothly.

Right after the breakfast the ushers will proceed to the Youth Room with head usher, Roger Jacobson, who will review all of the usher guidelines with us and hand out the usher team rosters.

*If you are newer to Federated and would like to learn more about ushering, please join the rest of the ushers in the Youth Room.*

**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.

## “Be Now My Vision”

*Arr. David Evans*

*Unison*

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;  
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part -  
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;  
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, O, bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,  
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.  
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.  
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

# “Will You Come and Follow Me?”

*John Bell and Graham Maule*



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
4. God, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, — will you let my name be known, —  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare — should your life at - tract or scare? —  
Will you use the faith you've found — to re - shape the world a - round, —  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go — where your love and foot - steps show. —



— will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?  
— Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?  
— through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?  
— Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

# “God of Love, We’ve Known Division”

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette



1. God of love, we've known di - vi - sion and we've seen its aw-ful cost.
2. Turn us, Lord, from what di - vides us— fear that drives us far a - part,
3. May we all, in con-ver - sa - tion, speak the truth and lis-ten well.
4. You have chal-lenged us to good-ness; you have shown a kind-er way.



We have strug-gled as a na - tion, and there's much that we have lost.  
greed that leads to great in - jus - tice, ra - cist ways that break your heart.  
May we hear, a - cross this na - tion, sto - ries oth - ers have to tell.  
It's your love that now in - spires us as we seek a bet - ter day.



We have been a house di - vi - ded— and, di - vi - ded, we can't stand.  
May we seek what brings to - ge - ther— hearts that bear each oth - er's pain,  
May we learn from oth - er cul - tures and be blessed by their world - view;  
May we end our harsh di - vi - sion; may we stop the hate and fear.



May our na - tion be u - ni - ted; give us peace through-out this land.  
care and mer - cy toward our neigh - bors, love that wel - comes stran - gers in.  
May we serve with one a - noth - er— lov - ing oth - ers, lov - ing you.  
Make us one, Lord, as a peo - ple; may we be u - ni - ted here.

# 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*



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