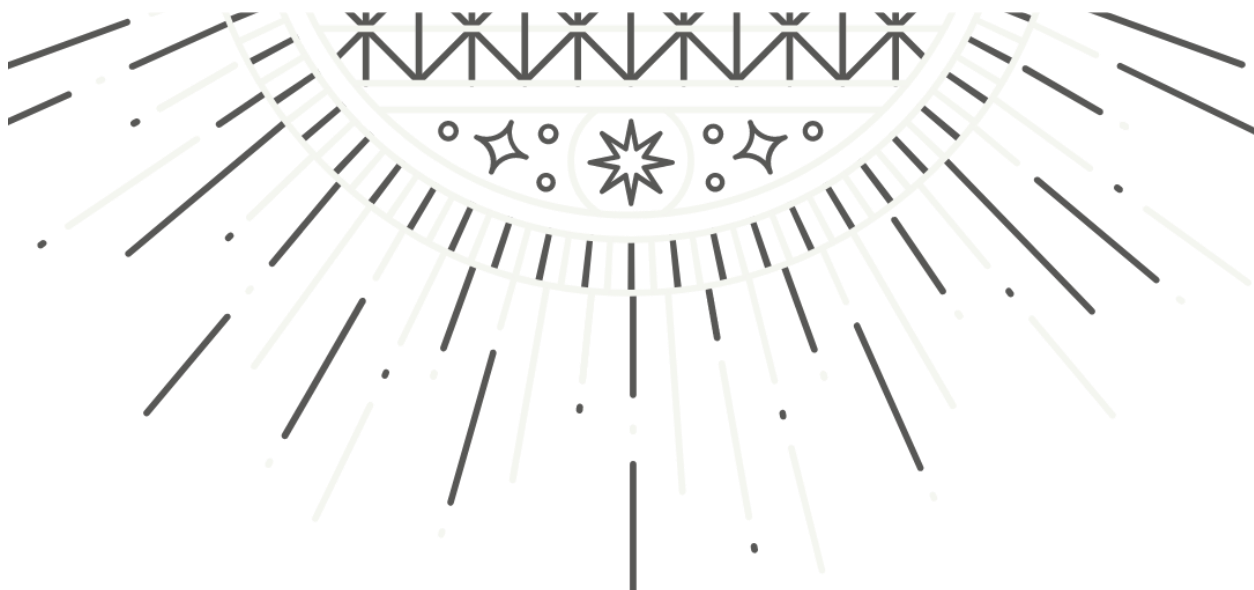


# The Federated Church

*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 LGBTQIA+ people to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

## **Order of Worship | January 29, 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** “All Are Welcome” (p.5)

### **Centering Moment**

#### **Sharing Prayers of Joy & for Healing**

#### **Silent Prayer & Reflection**

*“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together”*

*~ Desmond Tutu*

*“If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving.” ~ James Baldwin*

*God of belonging,*

*We are grateful that you model for us a divine community within yourself. Many of us long for connection and interdependence, but we have become used to enduring the sounds of our own loneliness. We confess that we’ve become so acquainted with loss and abandonment that we struggle to believe there are those who truly want to be with us. Keep us from pushing them away. Form us to be people of collective responsibility, that we would never become too familiar with hyper-independence but would find ourselves participating in communal restoration and care. Let us become that community which can both hold lament and rouse laughter, where we are able to name our own needs and allow space for others’. Let us belong to one another in true mutuality, knowing our burdens and hopes and liberation are mysteriously entwined. Let us bear it together knowing we cannot become more free on our own.*

### **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** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (p. 6)

**Scripture** [1 Kings 19:4, 8-15a](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#); [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

**Sermon** “Where the Voice of God Is Heard”

## **Musical Meditation**

### **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** “Blest Are They” vv. 1-4 (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:** Brian Oster | **Ushers:** *Alice Whitney and Skip and Beverly Schramer*  
*Ushers for Sunday, Feb. 5: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, & Bev Whilden*

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

The Centering Prayer comes from Cole Arthur Riley, via @BlackLiturgies. For more, follow @Black Liturgies on Instagram or @ColeArthurRiley on Facebook.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The Board of Deacons are excited to **invite the entire congregation** to a full breakfast immediately following worship this morning 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. *If you would like to learn more about ushering, please join the ushers in the Youth Room following breakfast.*

**Listen to Sermons Online**—Video of sermons are posted each week on our website: [www.fedsycamore.org/sermons](http://www.fedsycamore.org/sermons). They're also available via podcast (*scan the QR code!*)



Spotify



Apple

**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.

## “All Are Welcome”

Marty Haugen



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly\_\_ live, a\_\_
2. Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and\_ true, where
3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and\_ stone to\_\_
4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi- sions heard and\_



place where saints and chil - dren\_ tell how\_ hearts learn\_ to for - give. Built of  
 all God's chil - dren dare\_ to\_\_ seek to\_\_ dream God's\_ reign a - new. Here the  
 heal and strength-en, serve\_ and\_ teach, and\_ live the\_\_ Word they've known. Here the  
 loved and trea - sured, taught and\_ claimed as\_\_ words with - in the Word. Built of



hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 cross shall stand as wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace: here as  
 out - cast and the strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us  
 tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,  
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.\_\_\_\_\_

# "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

*Edwin Hatch*

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new  
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:  
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody is primarily composed of chords and quarter notes. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.  
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.  
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.  
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. It includes a double bar line at the end of the system. The lyrics continue with the same alignment and hyphenation as the first system.

# "Blest Are They"

David Haas

Gsus Leader or All G D C

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus D7 Gsus G Gsus G

king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
 shall be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who  
 cause of me. Re - joice, be glad;

D C Dsus D Gsus G

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;

Am A D C D7 Em Em7

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king - dom of God!

# 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



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