

# Federated Church

## OF SYCAMORE

*United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association*



**EASTER**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**



A SEASON OF  
**RESURRECTION**

# ***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? Fill out our brief online [Connection Form here](#), 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 | May 21, 2023, 10:00 am**

*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** “Alchemy of Healing” (p.4)

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

### **Centering Moment**

*This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God. We invite you to slowly read the quotes below, and then: ponder the Meditation questions; move through the Breath Prayer; or simply sit in silence.*

“Change your mind and heart, for the Realm of God has drawn near!” ~ Jesus

“If our theology doesn’t shift and change over our lifetimes,  
then I have to wonder if we’re paying attention.” ~ Sarah Bessey

### **Meditation Questions**

1. What is something significant you’ve had a change of mind/heart on? How did the values of your faith guide/inspire that change?
2. What is something God might be calling you to have a change of mind/heart on now? How do the values of your faith guide/inspire that change?

### **Breath Prayer**

*“Breath Prayer” is an ancient Christian form of prayer done by choosing one or two lines to meditate on, and to inhale / exhale through them. This helps us unite our prayers with our full being. Take a moment to breathe through these lines as your centering prayer.*

Inhale: It’s OK to change my mind.    Exhale: God is not ashamed of me.

Inhale: I want to be free.    Exhale: God is calling me to new life.

### **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.**

**Choir Anthem**

“A Thousand Voices”

*David Rasbach*

**Scripture**

[Acts 8:1b-3, 9:1-21](#)

**Sermon**

“Threatened with Resurrection”

**Sung Response**

“Spirit of the Living God” (p.3)

**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** “Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us” (p.5)

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

† † †

## **WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning are:*

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

**Liturgist:** Sharon McKee | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver and Linda Mason

Ushers for Sunday, May 28: Paula von Ende and Skip & Bev Schramer

All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **May's Love Offering** | *Spartan Food Pantry.*

Donations in any amount are welcome and can be placed in the “offering” plate, mailed to the church office, or given online at <https://onrealm.org/federatedchurch/give/now> —select the fund: Love Offering. Be sure to write “Spartan Food Pantry” in the memo section of checks.

## **Ladies' Night Out.** | *Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 pm | Rosita's Mexican Restaurant*

Please join the women of the church for Taco Tuesday at Rosita's at 6 pm on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Or maybe you prefer enchiladas, flautas or burritos with your margaritas. See you there! Sign-up in Dutton Hall or through the link in the weekly eNews.

**Online Giving** is now live! Whether it's your weekly, monthly, or quarterly pledge, a one-time or recurring donation, or a contribution to a specific fund (e.g.: monthly LOVE Offering, Pastors Emergency fund, etc.), you can now do that simply and securely through our online platform (<https://onrealm.org/federatedchurch/give/now>). *Contact the church office with questions.*

## **“Spirit of the Living God”**

*Daniel Iverson*

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

# “Alchemy of Healing”

*Gilo*

1. The cour - age we bor - row, the cour - age we bring  
 2. Bring grace and bring kind - ness to all that you sing,  
 3. The dark - ness we ban - ish, the sha - dow we blame  
 4. Come ga - ther your pow - er with good friends a - round.

shall bind us in strength to the heal - ing we sing.  
 to heal and to hon - our each fierce ten - der thing.  
 though hid - den, may help us to find our true name.  
 To - geth - er we stand in the truth of this ground.

The cour - age to face an - y wound that we fear  
 Each shame left un - spo - ken may yet shine a light,  
 So bring all your cour - age that all be made whole,  
 Our cour - age can make us, can heal and can mend,

shall bind us in beau - ty and bless ev - ery tear.  
 a place that seemed bro - ken, and that place can give life.  
 trans - form - ing your stor - y in bo - dy and soul.  
 and a wound can be sa - cred, an - y wound we tran - scend.

# "Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us"

Daniel Charles Damon



1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your  
2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha - tred, run - ning like a  
3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -



voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -  
thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us  
spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

## Refrain



joice. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's  
dead. fair.  
fair.



power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

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

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