

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



**A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ &
Unitarian Universalist Association**

Order of Worship | September 17, 2023, 10:00 am

Prelude

“Bes”

Sowah Mensah

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Gathering Song

“All Are Welcome” (p.4)

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God. We invite you to slowly read the quote below, and then: ponder the Meditation questions; move through the Breath Prayer; or sit silently as the music plays.

*“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

Meditation Questions

How can I commit to actively expanding my capacity to love? What can I do in the regular rhythms of my life to become larger, freer & more loving?

Silent Prayer

*God of Belonging,
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 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 "You Are Here in Our Midst" (p.5)

Scripture [Ezekiel 37:1-14; Matthew 9:35-37](#)

Sermon "The Future of Spirituality"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life

Special Music "Bawa" Sowah Mensah

Sending Hymn "For Everyone Born" (p.6)

Benediction

Postlude "Kete" Sowah Mensah
We invite you to stick around for inter-generational activities and a free lunch!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

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

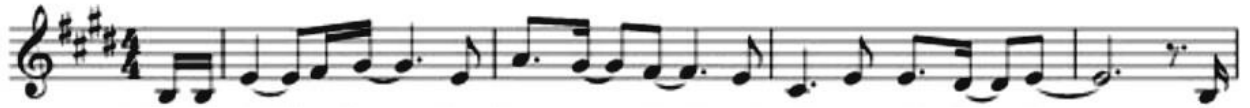
Ushers: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, & Allison Stahl

Ushers for Sunday, Sept. 24: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

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

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

“All Are Welcome”
Marty Haugen & Mark Miller



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.
 all God's chil - dren dare to seek to dream God's reign a - new.
 heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
 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 the out cast and the strang - er bear the im age of God's face;
 Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,



All are wel - come, wel - come in this place, all in - vit - ed to



come and know God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to feel, 'cause



all of us are wel - come here, all are wel - come in this place.

“You Are Here in Our Midst”

Don Moen



You are here _____ in our midst. _____

How we've wait -



- ed for mo - ments like this. _____ Have your way _____ in this place. _____

Ho-ly Spi -



- rit come do _____ as you wish. _____

We are changed _____ as you move in our midst. _____

SPECIAL THANKS

We welcome musical guest *Harambee Percussion Ensemble* to worship this morning.

About the pieces: “Bes” and “Bawa” are both performed on the pentatonic (five-note scale) African xylophones. *Bes* is named for the composer's wife; *Bawa* would be appropriate on many occasions in Ghana except for funerals. “Kete” uses a two-part timeline (normally bell and rattle; played this morning using a “jam block” instead of the bell) along with two stick parts and a hand drum part to support the melody phrases, played with sticks on low drums.

DRUM-ALONG: Come play with us, during the inter-generational time after the service! We're planning three opportunities: on drums, bell or rattle, and African xylophone. We'll have extra instruments on hand and will teach some very simple parts that are universally accessible. All are welcome and encouraged to participate, no musical experience necessary!

Harambee [/ha-RAHM-bay/] was founded by Dr. Sherry Jones in the early 2000s in DeKalb, IL as an after-school enrichment program for grades 3-4-5. Co-directed by Sharon McKee, it soon expanded to include its middle school alumni, who became the group's first student leaders. Harambee moved to its current location at the Federated Church of Sycamore in 2015. It is currently a community group: all are welcome to come learn the music and about the cultures that have produced it!

“For Everyone Born”

Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann



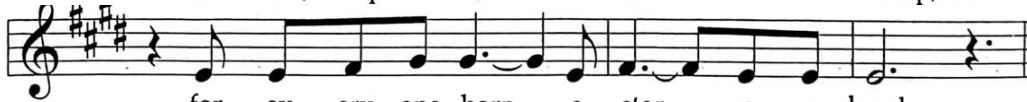
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



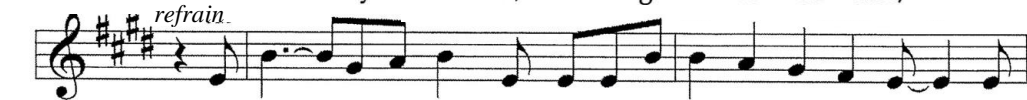
for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
to li - sten and mourn, for - give and be changed,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Love Offering | *Sondra King CROP Hunger Walk*

The September Love Offering will go toward the Sondra King CROP Hunger Walk. Our church team, The Federated Striders, has set an ambitious goal of \$3,000! The Walk will be Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2pm at the Sycamore Forest Preserve. *Donations in any amount are welcome. For checks, please note “CROP Walk.” Cash donations should be put in a Love Offering envelope labeled CROP Walk with the donor’s name. Donations may be placed in the “offering” plate, mailed to the church office, or given online using the QR code (next to “Online Giving” below)—select the fund: Love Offering.*

Gauging Interest in a Church Book Club

We’re hoping to get a book club together to discuss books related to faith, theology, and how to be a reflection of God’s love in our community. The first book we will explore is Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke. Discussion dates TBD. Let us know if you’re interested by signing up in Dutton Hall.

Ladies’ Night Out – Omi Sushi, September 26

Ladies’ Night Out will be at Omi Sushi, 3206 Sycamore Rd., DeKalb, at 6:00 PM, on Tuesday, September 26. Let us know you can join us by signing up on the sheet in Dutton Hall or using the link in Wednesday’s eNews.

All Church Fall Clean-up - October 21

The Board of Trustees is seeking volunteers to help with Fall Clean-up on Saturday, October 21, beginning at 9:00 AM. Help will be needed with painting, organizing areas within the church, outdoor clean-up of leaves, etc. Look for the sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall.

Online Giving

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 do that simply and securely through our online platform. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to get started or see the weekly Enews for a web-browser link!
Contact the church office with questions.



“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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www.fedsycamore.org

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