

Federated Church

OF SYCAMORE



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

***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 | September 24, 2023, 10:00 am

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

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

Prelude “Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down” D. Doherty / arr. M. Hayes

Welcome & Passing the Peace (We invite you to say “Hi” in the comments and like the video to let us know you’re here.)

Gathering Song “Sing a New World into Being” vv. 1-3 (p.3)

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 quote below, and then: ponder the Meditation questions; move through the Breath Prayer; or sit silently as the music plays.

“Jesus napped regularly, got frustrated with religious systems, experienced hunger that turned to anger, occasionally ignored his family’s advice, and happily ran away when people wanted to control him.

His humanity was part of his godliness. And so is yours.”

~ The Happy Givers, non-profit

Meditation Questions

Where are you emotionally and spiritually this morning? What is weighing you down? What is lifting you up? Take a moment to check in with yourself and what’s on your heart as we center into a spirit of worship.

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: Jesus’ humanity was part of his godliness | **Exhale:** God embraces my humanity

Inhale: I embrace my full humanity | **Exhale:** Even the hard parts

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 “Come as You Are” (p.4)

Scripture [1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Galatians 5:1, 22-26](#)

Sermon “Spiritual Bypassing & Authentic Spirituality”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory “Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us” *arr. Marianne Kim*

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 “Will You Come and Follow Me?” (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude “He Is Exalted” *T. Parks / arr. M. Hayes*
As the 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: | **Ushers:** Sally Stevens and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for next Sunday, Oct. 1: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

All hymns this morning come from The New Century Hymnal unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671 & OneLicense #P-650326

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking to Get Involved?

A variety of sign-up sheets are located on the back wall of Dutton Hall—from helping lead worship, to service opportunities, to book groups and Bible studies, to social gatherings; be sure to check them out and get connected!

We will recycle & reuse these bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. Thanks!

Online Giving

Whether it's your 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! *Contact the church office with questions.*



“Sing a New World into Being”

Mary Louise Bringle



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

“Come As You Are”

Gary Rand / Lenora Rand

Three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The second and third staves are also treble clefs with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Come as you are. Come you wear - y, come and
lay your bur - dens down. Come as you are. Bring your hopes, bring your
doubts and your scars. Come as you are.

“Will You Come and Follow Me?”

John Bell & the Iona Community

Four staves of music in B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two flats. The second, third, and fourth staves are also treble clefs with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

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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