

**THE**  
**Federated Church**  
**OF SYCAMORE**



**Stewardship 2023**

# **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 | October 15, 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** “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” Tomlin/Giglio

### 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** “Womb of Life, and Source of Being” (p.3)  
*After singing, children will gather with Miss Janis in the back for “Children’s Church”*

### 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.*

“The greatest teacher of God’s presence in our life is our life.” ~ James Finley

“We do not think ourselves into new ways of living.

We live ourselves into new ways of thinking.” ~ Richard Rohr

#### Meditation Questions

- ◆ What part of your life—your humanity—have you been avoiding? Be honest with yourself. Use this time to begin being present to it and feeling it so you can move through it. This is where God calls us, where Love is most powerfully experienced, and the place from which we are changed.

#### Breath Prayer

*“Breath Prayer” is an ancient Eastern Christian form of prayer done by choosing one or two lines to meditate on, and inhaling/exhaling 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:** I am loved | **Exhale:** I will stop running from myself

**Inhale:** Avoidance will not bring healing | **Exhale:** I will rest in God’s Love

#### 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** "All Belong Here" (p.4)

**Scripture** [John 13:5-16](#)

**Sermon** "Living Ourselves into New Ways of Thinking"

**Choir Anthem** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" *John Rutter*

**Our Shared Life & Offering**

**Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" *Ken Medema*

**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** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" (p.5)

**Benediction**

**Postlude** "Praise Him! Praise Him!" *C. Allen /arr. M. Hayes*  
*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:** Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

Ushers for Sunday, Oct. 22: Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer

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

**“Womb of Life and Source of Being”**

*sung to tune of Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

Verse 1

***Womb of life, and source of being, home of every restless heart  
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start  
We, your children gather ‘round you, at the table you prepare  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter, we are nurtured by your care***

Verse 2

***Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend  
When our memory fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend  
Labor with us, aid the birthing of the new world yet to be  
Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity***

Verse 3

***Mother, Brother, Holy Partner, Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
We would praise your name forever, one in three, and three in one  
We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new  
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you***

# “All Belong Here”

Lenora & Hannah Rand

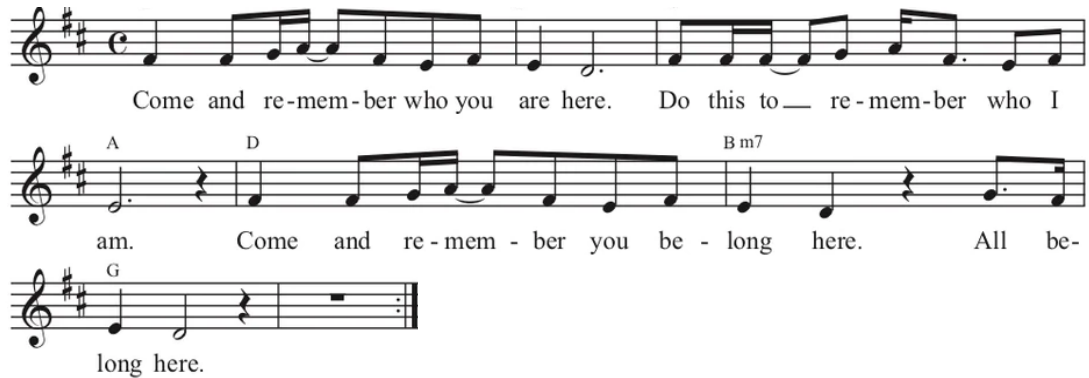
## Verse 1



When you're not sure who you real-ly are, When all you feel is the  
shape of your scars, And you have more wounds than you can count, O-pen your  
eyes, look all a-round, You aren't a - lone, this is your home.\_

Chords: Bm, A, G, Bm, F#m7, G, Bm, A/C#

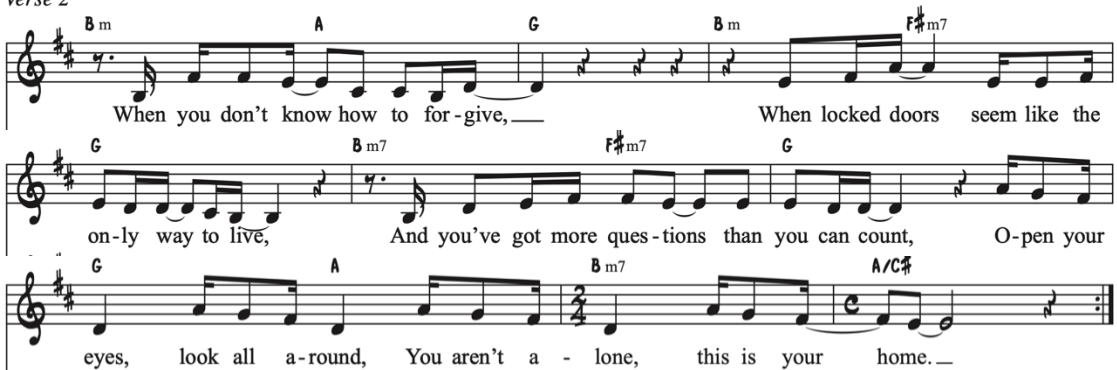
## Chorus



Come and re-mem-ber who you are here. Do this to — re-mem-ber who I  
am. Come and re-mem - ber you be - long here. All be-  
long here.

Chords: A, D, Bm7, G

## Verse 2

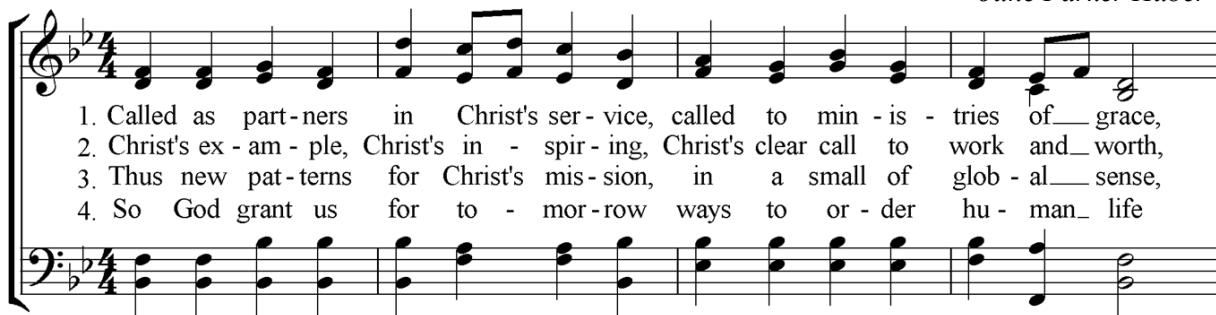


When you don't know how to for-give, — When locked doors seem like the  
on-ly way to live, And you've got more ques-tions than you can count, O-pen your  
eyes, look all a-round, You aren't a - lone, this is your home.\_

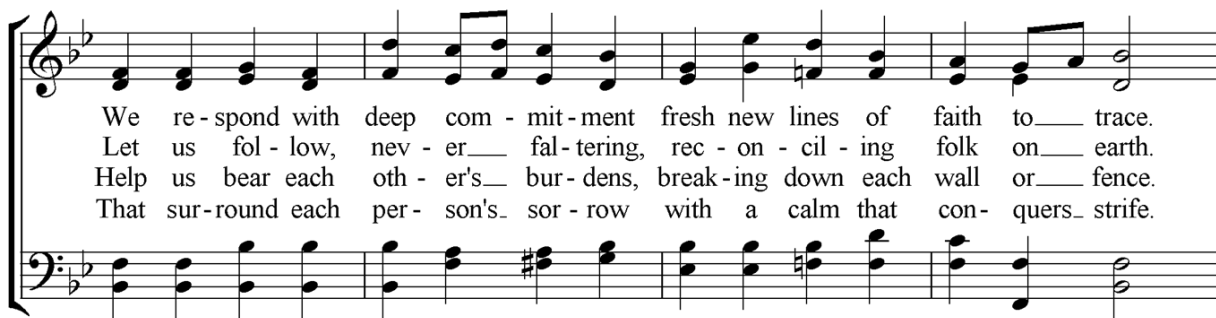
Chords: Bm, A, G, Bm, F#m7, G, Bm7, F#m7, G, Bm7, A/C#

# “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

*June Parker Huber*



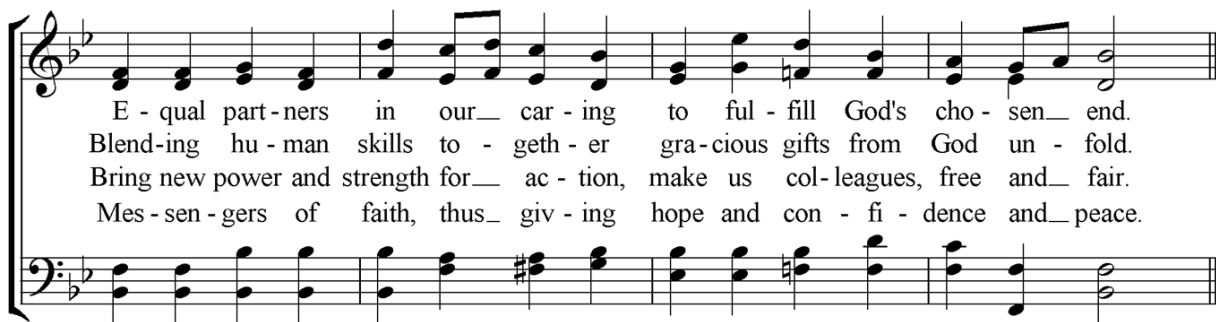
1. Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of\_\_ grace,  
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and\_\_ worth,  
3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small of glob - al\_\_ sense,  
4. So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man\_\_ life



We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to\_\_ trace.  
Let us fol - low, nev - er\_\_ fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on\_\_ earth.  
Help us bear each oth - er's\_\_ bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or\_\_ fence.  
That sur - round each per - son's. sor - row with a calm that con - quers\_\_ strife.



May we learn the art of\_\_ shar - ing, side by side and friend with\_\_ friend,  
Men and wom - en, rich - er,\_\_ poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and\_\_ old,  
Words of com - fort, words of\_\_ vi - sion, words of chal - lenge, said with\_\_ care,  
Make us part - ners in our\_\_ liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our\_\_ car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen\_\_ end.  
Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.  
Bring new power and strength for\_\_ ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and\_\_ fair.  
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus\_\_ giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and\_\_ peace.

We are excited to welcome you into this Stewardship Season at Federated Church. Our theme this year is: “Becoming a School of Love.”

Every Fall over the course of several weeks, Stewardship Season invites us to take a step back and ask ourselves questions like:

- ◆ Why are we here, and why does it matter that Federated Church exists?
- ◆ What difference does our collective presence and ministry make in each of our lives, and in the wider community?
- ◆ How might God be expanding and deepening our sense of what it means to *be* the church in service of the world God so loves?

This year in particular, we are focusing questions like these through the lens of what it might look like to more boldly and courageously become a school of love. That is, to be a community where we reflect on what the love modeled in Jesus inspires us to and challenges us with. A community that practices this love with each other, even as we learn to more boldly offer it in service of the wider world.

Between now and November 5<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to reflect for yourself: why are *you* here? How has involvement in this community deepened your spirit, given you hope, and expanded your faith? How have you experienced being loved back to life?

As you ponder those questions, we also invite you to consider: How can I “pledge” to offer myself to these life-giving ministries in the year ahead? What can I pledge to contribute—in time and talents, in skills and passion, in finances and service—in order to keep make these life-giving ministries possible for others?

Please plan to join us on November 5<sup>th</sup> with your filled-out pledge cards (which you will receive in the coming weeks). During worship, we will dedicate these “pledges” and share in a special post-service celebration.

*2023 Stewardship Team*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Federated 101—10/15, Following Worship, Settle Room**

So... you've started worshipping with us, receiving the newsletter, and maybe even had coffee with Pastor Eric. But we're guessing you still have questions. Or maybe you're trying to find ways to connect, serve, or further explore your faith. Or maybe you're wondering how one becomes a member--or what the point of membership is. If this sounds like you, then we invite you to "Federated 101"—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others in the same boat to learn more about who we are, to finally ask that question you've had, to connect with others. Childcare will be provided while we gather.

## **All-Church Conversation: "Becoming School of Love"**

*10/22, Following Worship, Dutton Hall*

Join us following worship on October 22 for an "all church" conversation on what it might look like for us to be a "School of Love." After getting coffee and snacks, we will split into small groups and reflect together on a series of prompts to begin imagining the kind of community we might seek to be—and become ever more. This is not a formal "visioning" session, but rather a chance for us to hear and learn from—as well as be inspired by—one another.

## **No Worship Due to Pumpkin Festival Activities—Sunday, October 29**

Once again, this year worship will not be held due to the 10K Pumpkin Run, Pumpkin Festival Parade and other activities taking place in town for the annual Pumpkin Festival.

## **Childcare Assistant Volunteers—Sunday mornings**

We are looking for volunteers to assist Janis, our Children's Programming Coordinator, with the children during Sunday worship services. If you are able to help one time, once a month or once in a while, please sign up [here](#)!

## **October Love Offering: Neighbors in Need (NIN)**

NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice & compassion throughout the US. This year's focus is on environmental justice. One-third of the offering supports **Council for American Indian Ministry** and two-thirds is used by **Justice and Witness Ministries** to provide grants to UCC churches & organizations and support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, & direct service projects. Donations may be mailed to the church. Indicate NIN on your check. Online donations may be made at <https://bit.ly/3tqXsSN> by selecting the "Love Offering" giving fund.

## **Sondra King CROP Hunger Walk Preliminary Results**

The Federated Striders had a great team: Allison Stahl, Pam Kitterman, Linda Matuszewski, and Paula von Ende, each exceeding their fundraising goal. The Striders raised over \$3,700! As of October 11, the 14 CROP Hunger Walk teams raised over \$14,000.

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

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