

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 22, 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 "Because He Lives" *Wm. & Gloria Gaiter/arr. Wolaver*

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 "My Life Flows on in Endless Song" (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.

"After he had washed their feet, Jesus said to them,... "I have set you an example; you also should do as I have done to you... As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my students/followers." ~ John 13

"You have heard it said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." ~ Matthew 5

Meditation Questions

- ◆ What might it look like for our church to boldly, courageously, & publicly live out the love Jesus models for us beyond the walls of our church?
- ◆ How can you commit to grow in your capacity to know and live this love in the year ahead?

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 "They'll Know We Are Christians" vv. 1-3 (p.4)

Scripture [Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:1-9, 20-21; Acts 16:5-16](#)

Sermon “No Longer Outsourcing Our Faith”

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Stewardship Moment

Testimony *Clint Bailey*

Gratitude Presentation

Offering Opportunities

Offertory Anthem “Dance, Sing, Clap Your Hands” *Douglas Wagner*

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 “Lead Us From Death to Life” vv. 1 & 3 (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude “Jesus Is All the World to Me” *W. Thompson/arr. Wolaver*
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: Pam Kitterman | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, Nov. 5: 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*

“My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

Robert Lowry/Doris Plenn



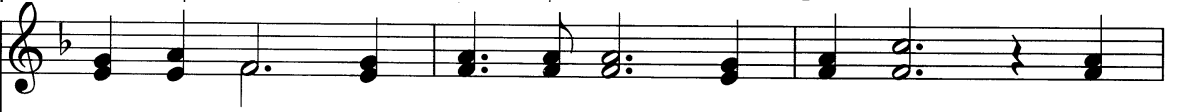
1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -



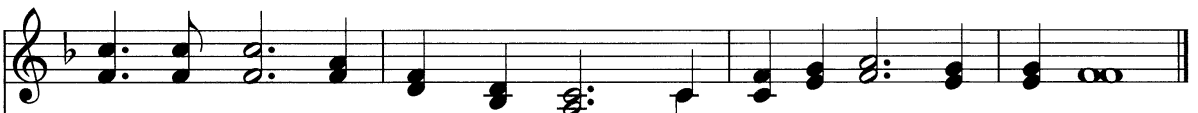
ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since



hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes



and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

Peter Scholtes



1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm



we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

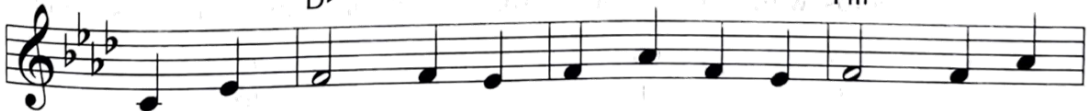
(Am) (Em)
 B^bm Fm



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

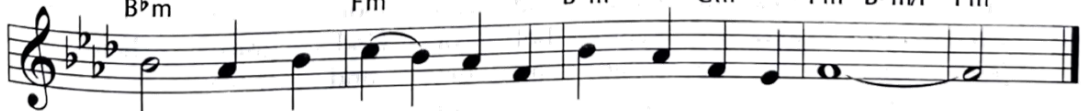
Refrain

(C) (Em)
 D^b Fm



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
 B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

“Lead Us from Death to Life”

Satish Kumar / Marty Haugen

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love, let
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All-Church Conversation: “Becoming School of Love”

10/22, Following Worship, Dutton Hall

Join us following worship today 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 & 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, learn from, & 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 services. If you're able to help one time, once a month or once in a while, please sign up in Dutton Hall! See Pam J. or Sharon H. for more info.

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** & two-thirds is used by **Justice and Witness Ministries** to provide grants to UCC churches & organizations & support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, & direct service projects. Please use the NIN special offering envelope at the back of the sanctuary or online at <https://bit.ly/3tqXsSN> by selecting the "Love Offering" giving fund.

All Saints' Day Remembrance—Sunday, November 5

Every year at the beginning of November we celebrate an ancient Christian tradition called “All Saints' Day.” As the seasons shift around us, we pause to remember, honor, grieve, and celebrate those who have passed away and yet whose lives continue to guide us—that “great cloud of witnesses,” as scripture refers to them.

On All Saints' Day, we light candles and lift up their names as we gather in the light of their love and presence.

The invitation this year is two-fold:

- 1. Bring a picture of someone** you'd like to honor with you to worship. We will bring these forward during worship to create an altar of those who light the way before us.
- 2. Submit a name of someone** you'd like us to remember and honor together by listing them in our bulletin—whether the person passed away this year or decades ago. Names will be read and a candle lit in their memory during worship on Nov. 5. To submit, please call or email Darlene in the church office by Wed., Nov. 1.

We look forward to remembering, honoring, celebrating and together drawing near to all the saints who've come before us and who continue to light the way forward.

Ways I Pledge to offer my time & talents in the year ahead

Stewardship 2023: Becoming a School of Love

Below you will find a list of ministries—ways that you can pledge your time and talents and offer yourself in service in the year ahead. Please circle any area where you have an interest. Indicating interest is just that; it is not something you're beholden to!

You'll notice that there are no Boards or Committees listed. Inspired by the work of our Governance Revitalization Task Force, we're interested here not in signing you up to attend meetings, but in learning about your interests, passions, and talents so as to better help guide us in the year ahead as we plan and organize our life together.

Bring this "pledge" sheet by itself or along with your financial pledge card to worship on Sunday, Nov. 5th so that we can bless everyone's offerings during worship together!

Someone will be in touch with you about possibilities, to answer your questions, and to discuss training/orientation (if needed) as we move into the new year!

Name: _____

Worship

Music

- Instrument _____ (*kind*)
- Singing
 - Choir
 - Special Music/Solo (*occasional*)
- Worship Planning with Pastor (*scriptures, themes, prayer stations, etc.*)

Liturgy

- Liturgist
- Creative Arts
 - Altar design/decorating
 - Photography / videography
 - Dance
 - Creating Prayer Stations (*e.g. Advent & Lent*)
 - Other: _____

Communion

- Preparing Communion elements (*bread & juice*)
- Serving Communion during worship

Tech Team

- Run Worship Livestream
- Run Soundboard

Children's Ministries

- Assisting Miss Janis with Children's Church (*during regular worship*)
- Helping Coordinate occasional Intergenerational Craft Activities
(*e.g. during Advent*)

Hospitality

- Ushering
- Greeter / welcoming people to worship
- Serving Coffee Hour
- Bringing dish to Potlucks
- Funeral usher/greeter
- Funeral Receptions

Wider Church Ministries

- Faith & Life Book Discussions (*examples: Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians; The Cross and the Lynching Tree*)
- Bible Studies
- Spiritual Practices (*e.g. Prayer, Meditation, etc.*)
- Gardening
- Fundraisers (*e.g. Thrift Sale, Plant Sale, Book Sale*)
- Backpack Ministry
- Caring Ministry
calling & visiting those in need
- Weekly Virtual Prayer Group
- Fall and Spring Church Cleanup
- Preschool Support

- Community/Fellowship Dinners
- Affinity Group
 - Parents
 - Women's
 - Men's
 - Other: _____

Community Service/Volunteering

- Delivering "Meals on Wheels" (*program of Voluntary Action Center delivering meals to those who are homebound*)
- Habitat for Humanity build
- Other: _____

Administration

- Preparing Mailings
- Website
- Accounting / Assisting office with church finances

Anything Else?

How else would you like to offer your time and talents? What would you like more information about? What would you like to see happening that is not? We'd love to hear your ideas!

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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