

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 | November 19, 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

“Isai Tauyo Pano”

Traditional, from Zimbabwe

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 “Come O Fount of Every Blessing” (p. 3)

Prayers of the People & 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.

Welcoming New Members

One: Do you promise to continue in your pilgrimage of faith, growing as a disciple of Jesus so that you may: resist oppression and evil; embody love; challenge injustice; pursue mercy; and bear witness to the reconciling Way of Jesus the Christ as best you are able?

New Members: We promise, with the help of God.

One: And, when you stray from this path—as we all inevitably do—do you promise to rest in God’s all-encompassing grace and forgiveness, return to the way of Jesus, and begin again?

New Members: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise to journey with this congregation in faithfulness and love, participating in the life of this church by worshiping God with us, and by offering your time, talents, and treasures in service of Federated Church, the Church universal, and the world God so loves?

New Members: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you, the people of Federated Church, promise to extend the extravagant welcome of Jesus to these newest members.

Congregation: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise to continuing growing in your own journey of faith even as you journey alongside them in theirs so that *together* we may:

resist oppression and evil; embody love; challenge injustice; pursue mercy; and bear witness to the reconciling Way of Jesus the Christ?

Congregation: We promise, with the help of God.

One: Do you promise to embrace the ways their presence, gifts, identities, backgrounds, and perspectives will add to, inspire, challenge, and re-shape us as a church, as we discern the future to which God is calling us?

Congregation: We promise, with the help of God.

Sung Response “For Everyone Born” vv.1 & 5 (p. 4)

Scripture [John 17:11, 16-26](#)

Sermon “A Church of Unity, Not Uniformity”

Anthem “Siyakudumisa (We Praise You)”

*(Zulu hymn arranged for the Holy Spirits Choir by Joseph Damaku.
Arranged for marimbas by Michael Breez. Transcribed by Bonnie Carol.)*

Siyakudumisa nkosi yetu / Akekofana nawe nkosi yetu / Atipaitanyi tsiami nkosi yetu

We praise you, our Lord / There is no one like you, our Lord

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” *Elvey / arr. Gail Smith*

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” vv. 1-3 (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude “Mbira Jamb” by Walt Hampton & “Ensemble 7” by Will Schmid
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

Robert Robinson



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

“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,



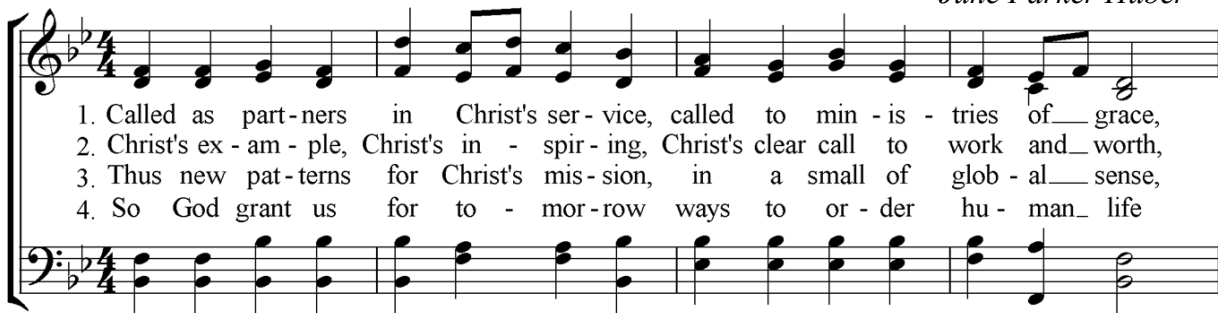
God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



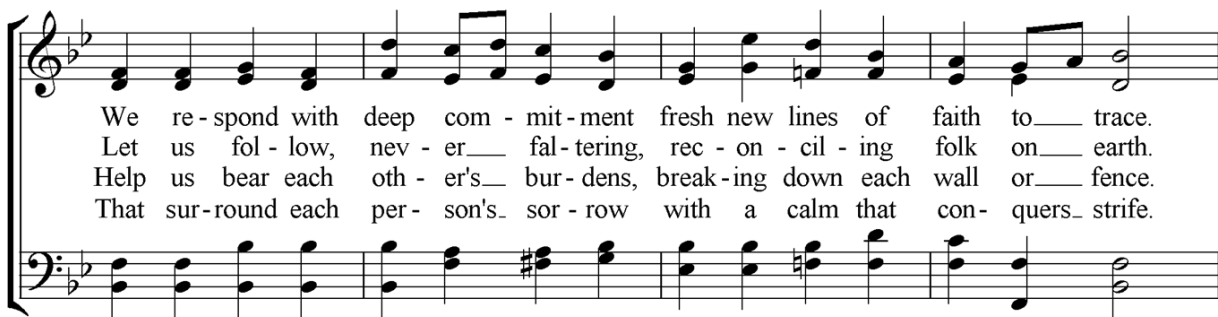
jus-tice and joy!

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

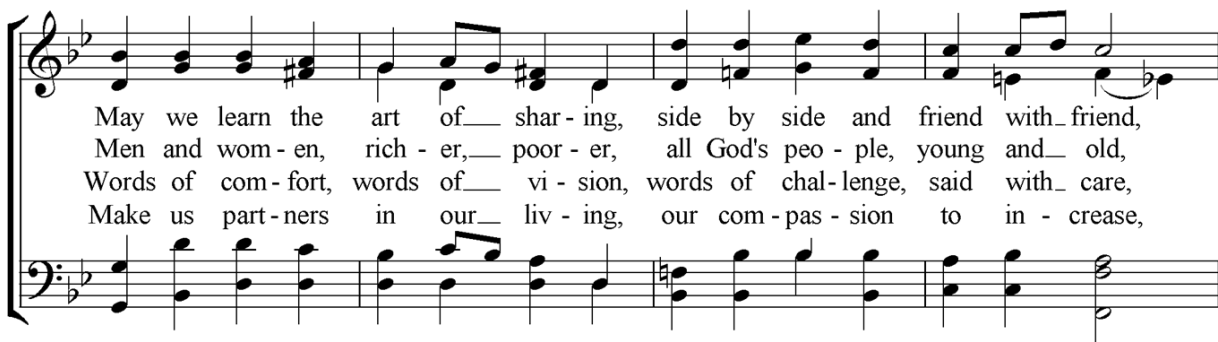
June Parker Huber



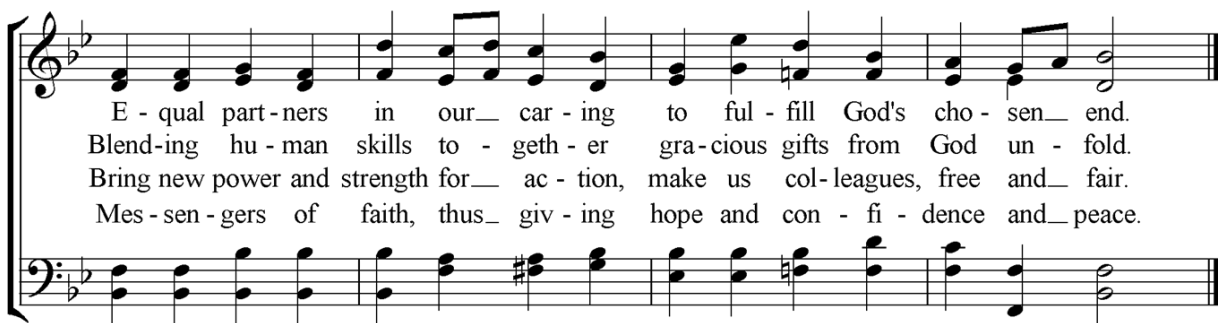
1. Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of__ grace,
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and__ worth,
3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small of glob - al__ sense,
4. So God grant us for to - mor - row 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.

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin
Liturgist: | **Musicians:** Harambee Percussion Ensemble
Ushers: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

Ushers for Sunday, Nov. 26: 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*

SPECIAL THANKS

We welcome musical guest **Harambee Percussion Ensemble** to worship this morning. Harambee [*/ha-RAHM-bay/*] was founded by Dr. Sherry Jones in the early 2000s and is co-directed by Sharon McKee. Originally an after-school enrichment program for grades 3-5., it soon expanded to include its middle school alumni. Harambee moved to its current location at Federated in 2015. It is currently a community group: all are welcome to come learn the music and about the cultures that have produced it!

We first encountered our teacher, native Ghanaian, Sowah Mensah, at a World Music Drumming workshop in 2002, and have been studying with him since then; the congregation heard his music at September's Rally Day service. At the workshops we've learned some of the Shona-style marimba music from Zimbabwe, which we're sharing this morning. Regardless of musical origin the ever-expanding musical communities formed as we continue to study and play music from around the world are a source of growth, challenge, friendship, and unity for all who participate. It's our privilege to join with Federated's choir and congregation again today, especially as the church welcomes new members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Vigil for Justice & Peace in Israel-Palestine

This Tuesday, 11/21, 5:30pm, at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb

Pastor Eric & Pastor John of First Congregational UCC in DeKalb invite you to join us for a community prayer vigil for justice and peace in Israel-Palestine. Along with a Jewish rabbi and Palestinian pastor from Bethlehem, we will offer perspective on the unfolding violence, create sacred space for lament, and share ways we can help end this crisis.

Advent Decorating, *after coffee hour in Dutton Hall and the sanctuary*

Join us after coffee hour to decorate the church in preparation of Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, which we begin next Sunday! Many hands make light work!

Stewardship Pledge Drive

THANK YOU to everyone who has prayerfully pledged themselves to support our vital and growing ministries in 2024, whether through your time, talents, and/or treasure. Because of you, our church changes lives! If you haven't yet done so, you can still find pledge cards—financial and time/talents—on the black tables in the back of the sanctuary. Please place in the offering plates or mail to the church office by December 12 so Church Council has this information as they put together the 2024 budget.

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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