

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 | February 04, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate however you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether it's bread & grape juice or a cookie & coffee.

God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together!

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

Prelude "Open Our Eyes / Be Thou My Vision" R. Cull/arr. M. Hayes

Welcome & Passing the Peace

We invite you to welcome one another with a sign of God's hospitality and peace

Gathering Song "For Everyone Born" vv. 1, 2, 5 (p.3)

After singing, children will gather with Ms. Janis in the back for "Children's Church"

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God.

We invite you to slowly read the quotes below, and then: ponder the Meditation Questions; move through the Breath Prayer; or sit silently as the music plays.

"We are wounded in relationship, and we are healed in relationship." ~ Harville Hendrix

"I am often struck by the dangerous narcissism fostered by spiritual rhetoric that pays so much attention to individual self-improvement and so little to the practice of love within the context of community." ~ bell hooks

Meditation Questions

- ◆ How have you found healing from the wounds of one relationship in the context of another relationship? (How have others helped you heal?)
- ◆ How might you go beyond "self-improvement" in order to "practice love"—giving *and* receiving it—more boldly and courageously here at Federated?

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 not a burden | **Exhale:** I will let myself be loved

Inhale: Healing is not a solitary journey | **Exhale:** We find freedom together

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 “Alchemy of Healing” vv. 1, 2, 4 (p.4)

Scripture [Mark 1:29-39](#)

Sermon “You Sure You Want to be Well?”

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

We practice an “open table”—everyone is welcome to receive God’s gifts. There is no dogma you must first believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, doubts, fears, and failures—and offers us nourishment and a blessing on life’s journey.

Invitation & Words of Institution

***Sharing Bread & Cup**

Please come forward as you feel ready by forming a single line in the center aisle.

Choir Anthem “Bread for the World” *Dennis Elliot*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory “Interlude” *Mark Hayes*

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 “As We Gather at Your Table” (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude “You Are My Hiding Place” *M. Ledner/arr. M. Hayes*
Thank you for joining us for worship!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

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

Children’s Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Sharon McKee

Ushers: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, February 11: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

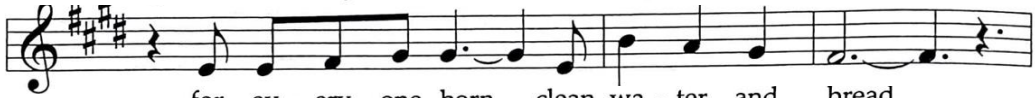
All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

"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!

"Alchemy of Healing"

Gilo



1. The cour - age we bor - row, the cour - age we bring
2. Bring grace and bring kind - ness to all that you sing,
3. The dark - ness we ban - ish, the sha - dow we blame
4. Come ga - ther your pow - er with good friends a - round.

shall bind us in strength to the heal - ing we sing.
to heal and to hon - our each fierce ten - der thing.
though hid - den, may help us to find our true name.
To - geth - er we stand in the truth of this ground.

The cour - age to face an - y wound that we fear
Each shame left un - spo - ken may yet shine a light,
So bring all your cour - age that all be made whole,
Our cour - age can make us, can heal and can mend,

shall bind us in beau - ty and bless ev - ery tear.
a place that seemed bro - ken, that place can give life.
trans - form - ing your stor - y in bo - dy and soul.
and a wound can be sa - cred, an - y wound we tran - scend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February Love Offering | Food Donations to the Spartan Food Pantry

The Love Offering for February is to increase our food donations to the Spartan Food Pantry. The goal is to fill the cart at the entrance to the sanctuary each Sunday in February. Actual food donations are encouraged, however monetary donations may be placed in the "offering" plate, mailed to the church office, or given online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS> select the fund: Love Offering. For checks, note "Spartan Food Pantry" Donations should be put in a Love Offering envelope with the donor's name.

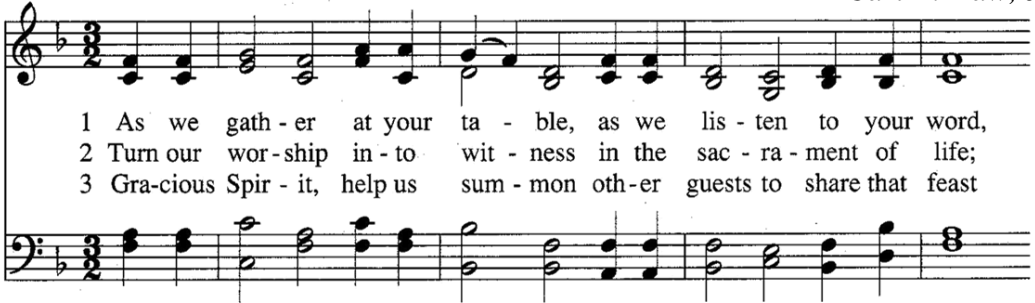
Weekly Enews

Scan (or click) this QR code with your phone camera to see the most recent Enews with all these announcements and more! Subscribe tab is at the top.

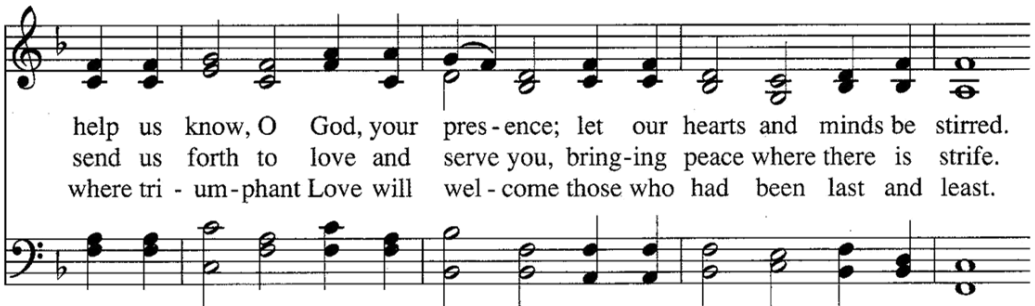


“As We Gather at Your Table”

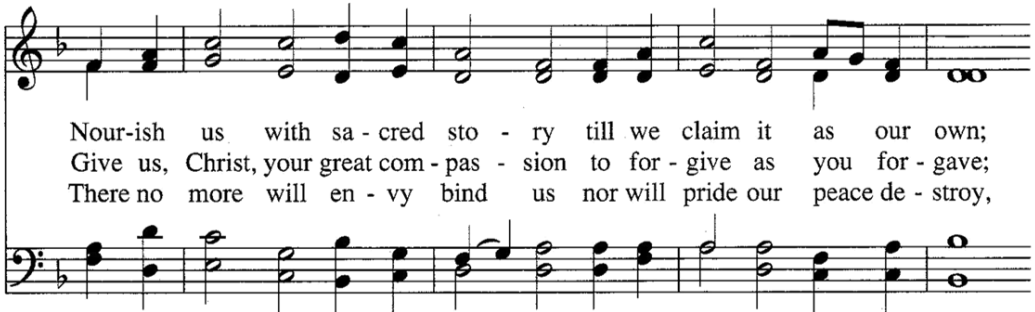
Carl P. Daw, Jr.



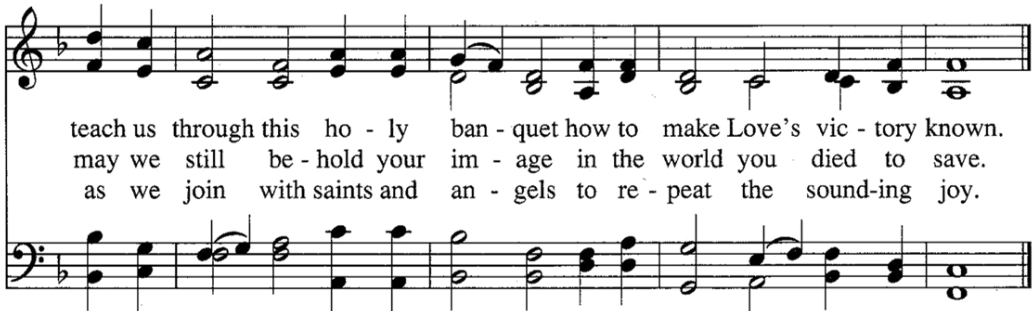
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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*



Follow us on

[Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#):



@FederatedChurchSycamore

www.fedsycamore.org

Church Office Phone: (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** Office@fedsycamore.org

Pastor Eric Cell: (815) 797-2250 || **Email** RevEric@fedsycamore.org

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

Phone: (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** Preschool@fedsycamore.org

Address: 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178