

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 11, 2024, 10:00 am

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

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

Prelude

"Come Let Us Worship"

D. Doherty/arr. Hayes

Welcome & Passing the Peace

We invite you to like the video and/or say "Hi!" in the comments.

Gathering Song

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding" (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

Question; move through the Breath Prayer; or sit silently as the music plays.

"The Glory of God is the human being fully alive" ~ Bishop Irenaeus of Lyon (2nd century)

"It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others." ~ Marianne Williamson

Meditation Questions

- ♦ What is one way you can honor the light/glory of God that shines within & through you? What would being "liberated from your own fear" look like?

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: The Glory of God shines through me. | **Exhale:** I will not live in fear.

Inhale: My liberation liberates others. | **Exhale:** We experience 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 “This Little Light of Mine” (p. 4)

Scripture [Mark 9:2-9; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#)

Sermon “Becoming Human, Becoming Divine”

Choir Anthem “This Little Light of Mine” *arr. Howard Helvey*

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory This Little Light”

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 “Transfigure Me” (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude “I Will Call upon the Lord” *M. O’Shields/arr. Hayes*
After the postlude plays, please join us in Dutton Hall for coffee and fellowship!

† † †

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:** Sheldon Turner

Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, February 18: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

“Transfigure Me” is written by Christopher Grundy in honor of Dee Dressler and the transgender community. All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with three verses of text provided for each system. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing harmonic support for the vocal melody.

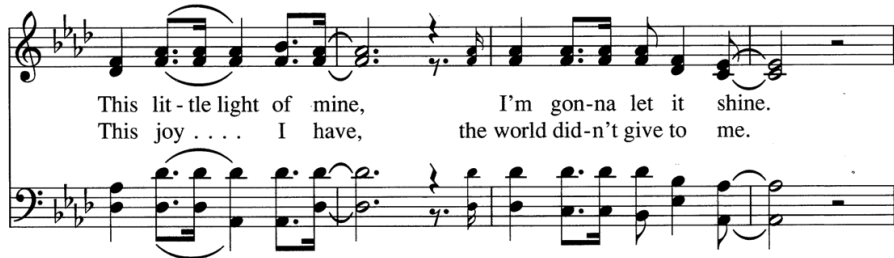
“This Little Light/This Joy I Have”

African-American spiritual/arr. Jeffrey Radford.



1 This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
1 This . . . joy I have, the world did-n't give to me.

I am gon - na let it, let it shine,
oh, the world did not give to me,

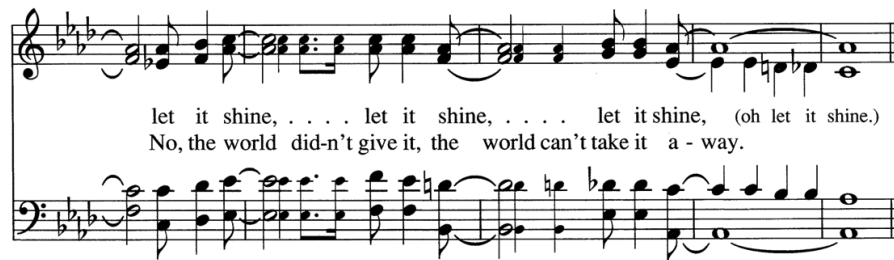


This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine.
This joy . . . I have, the world did-n't give to me.



This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,
This . . . joy I have, the world did-n't give to me.

Hal - le-lu - jah,
Hal - le-lu, the



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, (oh let it shine.)
No, the world did-n't give it, the world can't take it a - way.

“This Little Light” continued:

- 2 Ev-ery-where I go . . .
- 3 All--through the night . . .

“This Joy I Have” continued:

- 2 This love I have . . .
- 3 This hope I have . . .
- 4 This faith I have . . .
- 5 This peace I have . . .

"Transfigure Me"

Christopher Grundy

Trans-fig - ure me so that I might be more like Je -

sus, more like Je - sus; trans-fig - ure me so that I might be

more like_ Je - sus, Je - sus my_ light.

Je - sus my_ light... Je - sus my_

light... Je - sus my_ light...

For Dee Dressler and the transgender community. Brave journey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Service | Wednesday, February 14, 5:30 pm (no children)

Join us Wednesday, February 14 (also Valentine's Day), for a special evening service with the giving of ashes and blessing our messy, broken, beautiful lives as we begin our Lenten journeys together.

Lenten Spiritual Formation Small Group | Sundays, Feb 18-Mar 17, 4:45-6pm

Did you know there are many different ways to pray? Mark your calendar and join us for five Sunday evenings in Lent as we use the (NYT best-selling) book Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human by Cole Arthur Riley to explore, expand, and deepen our understanding of what prayer is and how we can incorporate it into our daily lives so that, as Riley says, we might "stay human" in a world where forces are constantly trying to de-humanize us.

We will gather each week in the church library, where we will begin by reflecting on prayer (with help from Riley's book). Pastor Eric will then introduce us to a different form of prayer, and we will end by practicing that prayer form together.

Copies of Riley's book are available at church for purchase (\$20) beginning today (with one copy able to be checked out from the church library).

Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, February 27, 6PM, Tapa La Luna, DeKalb

Our next Ladies' Night Out will be at Tapa La Luna, 226 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:00 pm. Signup in Dutton Hall or at the link found in the weekly eNews. We hope you can join us!

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.



Online Giving

Whether it's a recurring pledge, a one-time donation, or a contribution to a specific fund (e.g. the LOVE Offering, Pastoral Emergency fund, etc.), you can make them simply and securely online by scanning or clicking the QR code. *Contact the church office with questions.*



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 with items from the list of foods below. **You can make this happen!**

20 Items Food Banks Need the Most*

Applesauce
Canned Beans
Canned Chicken
Canned (Tuna and Salmon)
Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)
Canned Vegetables
Cooking Oils
Crackers
Dried Herbs and Spices
Fruit (Canned or Dried)

Granola Bars
Dried Mashed Potatoes
Meals in a Box
Nuts
Pasta
Peanut Butter
Rice
Shelf-stable and Powdered Milk
Soup, Stew and Chili
Whole Grain Cereal

Spartan Food Pantry supports the families of the Sycamore Community School District #427. Open every other Wednesday from 4:30- 6:00 pm at 520 N. Maple Street, in Sycamore.

Actual food donations are encouraged, however monetary donations may be made by indicating Spartan Food Pantry on the check and placed in an envelope labeled Love Offering (located in the back of the sanctuary by Sunday bulletins) with your name and amount on it. Place the envelope in the offering plate. Donations may also be mailed to the church office or given online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS> by selecting the "Love Offering" fund.

*List of food items obtained from Taste of Home Magazine, author Elizabeth Russell. The list was updated on December 14, 2023.

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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