THE

Federated Church

OF SYCAMORE



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 18, 2024

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

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

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

Prelude "Come, Just As You Are" J. Sabolick/arr. M. Hayes

Gathering For Worship

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Gathering Song "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (p. 3)

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

Centering Our Hearts

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art 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.

Choir Anthem

"Be Still My Soul"

Finlandia/setting by C. Courtney

Scripture

<u>Luke 5:1-11; Psalm 25:1-10</u>

Sermon

"Sought"

Sung Response

"I Come to You" (see p. 2)

Responding to God's Invitation: Prayer Stations (see insert)

Preparing to Live God's Love

Our Shared Life

Sending Song Benediction "Will You Come and Follow Me?" (p. 4)

Postlude

"We Worship and Adore You"

arr. M. Hayes

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!

"I Come to You"

Hannah Brown
(sung to the tune of "Wayfaring Stranger")

Verse 1

I come to you, the lost and scattered, I come to you, the smug and strong, I come to you, the souls ungathered, Now come to me, learn you belong.

Refrain

Leave all you've done, I am forgiving, Leave all you've known to come and see Leave all you've owned, you're just beginning Leave all you've been and follow me.

Verse 2

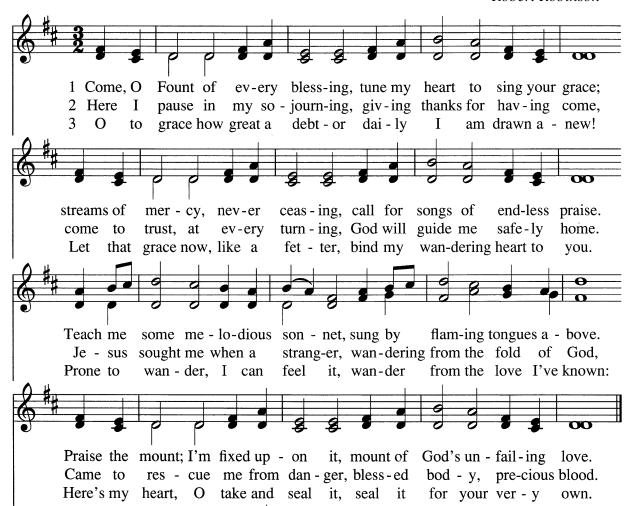
I come to you, the disregarded,
I come to you, the scarred and shamed,
I come to you, the broken-hearted,
Now come to me and be reclaimed. (Refrain)

Verse 3

I come to you, the false and failing, I come to you, the wild and worn, I come to you, the wronged and railing, Now come to me, and be reborn. (Refrain)

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Robert Robinson



"Will You Come and Follow Me?"

by John L. Bell and Graham Maule



† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | Ministers: All of us! | Music Director: Gary Mattin Children's Church Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe | Liturgist: Sharon McKee

Ushers: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

Ushers for Sunday, February 25: 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Spiritual Formation Small Group | *Sundays, Feb 18-Mar 17, 4:45-6pm* Did you know there are many different ways to pray? **Beginning this evening**, join us for five Sundays in Lent as we use the (NYT best-selling) book <u>Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human</u> 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 and the joys and struggles of being human. Pastor Eric will then introduce us to a different form of prayer, and we will end by practicing that prayer form together.

Copies of book available at church for purchase (\$20) (one available in church library).

February Love Offering | Food Donations to the Spartan Food Pantry
The Love Offering for February is to increase our food and personal hygiene donations
to the Spartan Food Pantry. The Spartan Food Pantry has requested **shampoo & conditioner** donations. The goal is to fill the cart at the entrance to the sanctuary each
Sunday in February. Actual product 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 donor's name.

Soup Sunday | Sunday, February 25, following worship
In place of coffee hour next Sunday, we will serve a light lunch of homemade soups with bread/crackers. We hope you can sit and chat while enjoying some delicious food made by our own in-house chefs.

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.



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.

We believe 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.

We believe in 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 working for 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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Follow us on <u>Facebook</u> & <u>Instagram</u>: @FederatedChurchSycamore

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