



Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith
with Peter

LENT 2024

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***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 | March 17, 2024

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

*We invite you to like the video and/or say "Hi!" in the comments to let us know you're here!
We also encourage you to create a "sacred space" wherever you are this morning as you worship with us: perhaps light a candle or incense, sit in/near the sun streaming through a window, or a favorite plant. Whatever helps ground you.*

Prelude

"He Is Exalted"

Twila Paris/arr. M. Hayes

Gathering For Worship

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Gathering Song

"Gather Us In" vv. 1, 2, 4 (p.2)

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

"Lamb of God, I Come"

Allen Keopke

Scripture

[Matthew 18:15-22; Psalm 119:9-16](#)

Sermon

"Teach Me Your Ways: The Absurd Math of Grace"

Sung Response

"Out of the Depths, O God, We Call" (p.3)

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

Preparing to Live God's Love

Our Shared Life

Sending Song

"Love Your Neighbor and Forgive" (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude

"Lord, Be Glorified"

B. Kilpatrick/arr. M. Hayes

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!

"Gather Us In"

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing, now are the shad - ows
 2. We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old, who
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wat - er, here we will take the
 4. Not in the space of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ished a - way, see in this space, our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face, we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your chil-dren to - ge - ther
 light years a - way, but here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race. Gath-er us in, the
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
 now is the kin-dom, now is the day. Gath-er us in, and



lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, and free us from shame; call to us now, and
 rich and the haught-y, gath-er us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart so
 wine of com pas-sion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and
 hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in, and make us your own, gath-er us in, all



we shall a-wak-en, we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 meek and so low-ly, give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 teach us to fash-ion lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 peop-les to-geth-er, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

“Out of the Depths, O God, We Call”

Ruth Duck

Unison Dm Dm/C B♭M7 Asus4 A

1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
 3 God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.

Dm Dm/C B♭M7 Asus4 A

*Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.

D Gm C F

Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.

B♭/D Am/C B♭M7 Am7 1, 2 Gm7 Am7 Dm 3 Gm7 Am7 D

Here in this com-mu - ni-ty, heal us by your touch.
 Here in this com-mu - ni-ty, hold us in your care.
 Here in this com-mu - ni-ty, meet us with your grace.

"Love Your Neighbor and Forgive"

Anna Strickland



"Love your neigh - bor and for - give" Words so sim - ple yet so hard
Sounds of bombs and bul - lets ring War is all we've ev - er known
Love is ris - ky, peace is faint And for - give - ness feels na - ive

We have wounds be - cause we've lived Cal - lus - es en - fold our hearts
Pa - ci - fists are framed as weak We re - ly on might a - lone
All are sin - ners, all are saints And we all God's grace re - ceive

Je - sus rea - ches out to touch Wounds and hearts that hold too much
Je - sus paves the paths of peace E - ven as the threats in - crease
So we fol - low mer - cy's way Soft - en - ing our hearts to grace

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† † †

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

Ushers for March 24: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

All hymns this morning are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar Day / All-Boards Meeting | *Today, Dutton Hall, after worship*

All current board members AND anyone with an interest in discussing or submitting items for the church calendar (e.g. Book Sale, etc.) are welcome to attend. This will be an informal way to set up the church calendar for the year and to make sure the different events don't overlap (or aren't forgotten).

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

Reading for this Sunday: "Rest" (pp.154-162); "Repair" (pp.145-153); "Lent V: Solidarity" (pp. 254-255). *See this week's news for a few tips/suggestions for readings.*

Easter Pick-up Choir

This Easter, we're reprising our pick-up choir of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Whether you're a professional singer or can hardly hold a note—we hope anyone who would find joy in being part of this considers joining us. Sheet music will be available after church for the next two Sundays, if you'd like to take a copy home and practice on your own. See Gary. You are also free to just jump in during the service on Easter, or, if you'd like a run-through you can join Gary and the choir in the chapel at 9:30am on Easter morning.

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service | *Thursday, Mar 28, 5:30-7pm*

Join us for a special Maundy Thursday service commemorating the Last Supper and the story of Jesus' final 24 hours. We will begin with a free/"pay as your able" Mediterranean dinner from Jamrah. **Please RSVP so we have an estimate as to how much food to get.** Dinner will be followed by a foot washing ceremony (for those who choose to participate in it) and a service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary. Children are invited to the dinner and Children's Church will be available during the portion after the meal.

Holy Week Schedule

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our Holy Week offerings as we move through the painful and destructive yet redemptive & hope-filled final days & hours of Jesus' life.

Palm Sunday: Sun. 3/24, 10AM

Maundy Thursday: Thur. 3/28, 5:30PM, with Mediterranean Dinner

Good Friday: Fri. 3/29, 3PM, ecumenical service at Sycamore UMC

Easter: Sun. 3/31, 10AM

Lenten Love Offering | *Spartan Food Pantry & One Great Hour of Sharing*

During Lent, our Love Offering includes two invitations:

1) To increase food and personal hygiene donations to the Spartan Food Pantry, which has specifically requested ***shampoo & conditioner***. *Bring donations to worship; during the Prayer Stations, bring them forward to the "Table of Offering" at the front.*

2) Monetary donations to support the UCC's "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering, which pools our donations with churches around the country to support disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and development initiatives around the world. See flyer on the Table of Offering for an impact example. For donations: place in an envelope in the "Offering Plate;" mail to church; or give online (link in eNews). Note "OGHS" on checks.

Weekly eNews

Scan 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.





Healing and Reconciliation

A Dialogue with Bereaved
Palestinian and Israeli Family Members

March 21, 2024
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Altgeld Hall, Auditorium

Join us as we host the **American Friends of the Parents Circle — Families Forum**
to learn from bereaved Palestinian and Israeli members, as they share their
stories of loss and their unique choice of reconciliation.

Participate in a discussion on why relationship building, mutual understanding
and a reconciliation framework for sustainable peace agreement brought
these families together.



**AMERICAN FRIENDS
of the PARENTS CIRCLE**
— FAMILIES FORUM —
Palestinian and Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace

parentscirclefriends.org

To request disability-related accommodations,
please contact the Disability Resource Center at 753-1303
as early as possible. Advance notice is appreciated.



Scan for more information.
go.niu.edu/ParentsCircle



**Northern Illinois
University**

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*



Follow us on
Facebook & Instagram:
@FederatedChurchSycamore



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