

# **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 | April 21, 2024, 10:00 am

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

All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. We hope you'll sing along!  
As you gather with us, we invite you to light a candle, incense, or consider what else you might do to help create a "sanctuary" wherever you are. We're so glad you're with us!

### Prelude

"He is Lord"

Mark Hayes

### Welcome & Passing the Peace

We invite you to like the video or comment on the livestream so we know you're here.  
We love to know who's worshipping with us each week!

### Gathering Song "Great is Your Faithfulness" (p. 5)

### Prayers of the People

### Centering Moment: A Blessing Meditation

*This is a time for you to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love.*

*"In the same way I have loved you, so you love one another" Jesus, John 13*

*"Then Jesus stood among them and said, 'Peace be upon you... and he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Spirit of Life.'" ~ Jesus, John 20*

*"We don't have time to judge them, because if we judge them we don't have time to love them." ~ Rachael, a nurse, as told to author Christie Watson*

"I (May you) receive God's Love"

"I (May you) find rest in God's Grace"

"I (May you) feel God's Peace"

### 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.**

### Choir Anthem

"Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You"

Jay Althouse

### Scripture

Psalm 136:1, 23-26; Matthew 26:6-16, 47-50, 27:1-5

*content warning: this scripture & sermon contain a story about suicide*

### Sermon

"God, Bless Judas"

**Sung Response** “Hesed” (p. 6)

**Our Shared Life & Offering**

**Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory** “Gift of Love”

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** “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” vv.1, 2, 4 (p. 7)

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “All Hail, King Jesus”

Dave Moody

*Thank you for joining us for worship today! Blessings as you go forth into your week!*

† † †

**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:** Pam Kitterman

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

*Ushers for Sunday, April 28: Paula von Ende, Skip and Bev Schramer*

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

# “Great is Your Faithfulness”



1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,\*  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.  
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

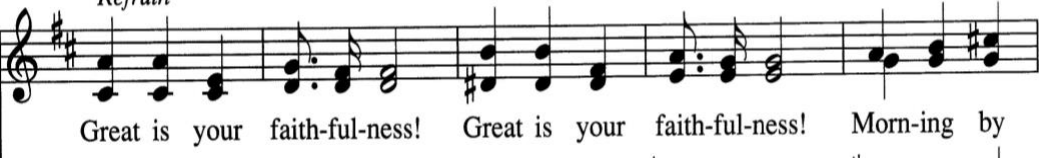


You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.  
to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

## *Refrain*



Great is your faith - ful - ness! Great is your faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your



hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful - ness, God, un - to me!

# “Hesed”

## Ghost Ship

2.Im - mov - a - ble He - sed and we will be your peo - ple. A - da - tion. A

You have made this cov - e - nant with us. There's  
love se - cure - ly bound in cov - e - nant. You've

no - where we could run that we could es - cape\_ you.  
sealed it with your blood and though we pull a - gainst it,

We can-not break your love. Your lov-ing kind - ness, your long-  
We can-not break your love.

suf - fer-ing; and your faith - ful - ness in your love for me. Un-con-

di - tion-al, stead-fast, loy - al, true. You are faith - ful in your

love for me.

# “My Life Flows on in Endless Song”

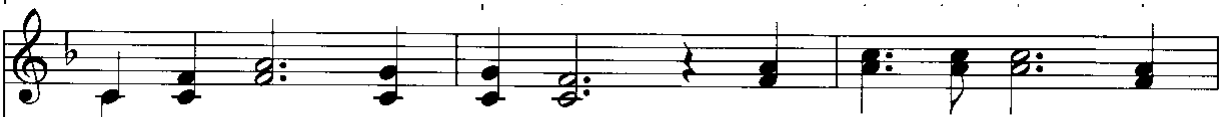
Robert Lowry



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -  
2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is  
3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells  
4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -



ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that  
liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A  
ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how  
bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since



hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult  
new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my  
can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and  
first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes



and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It  
in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since  
dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When  
fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?  
Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?  
things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Pastor Eric away on vacation, Monday, April 22-Sunday, April 28**

Pastor Eric will be away on vacation tomorrow, April 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. During this time, in case of pastoral emergency, please reach out to Rev. John Dorhauer, Pastor at First Congregational UCC in DeKalb (602-402-6171; 1stdekalbpastor@gmail.com). For other questions please reach out to either Darlene in the church office or Chris Borresen, our 2024 Church Moderator (cborresen@gmail.com)

## **Exploring a Community Partnership: Youth Outlook**

*Sundays, April 21 and May 5, Dutton Hall, following worship*

Youth Outlook Executive Director, Nancy Mullen (*pronouns: interchangeable*), will be joining us after worship on Sunday, April 21, to share more information about Youth Outlook and the life-saving, life-giving work that they do with LGBTQ+ youth and families. They will then return on Sunday, May 5 to lead us in an “all-church” presentation/conversation around how we as a church can more intentionally create an environment and community that fully welcomes LGBTQ+ individuals and families, along with how we can partner with them in their work here in Sycamore.

## **Federated 101, Today, 11:20-12:20pm, Settle Room**

New(ish) to Federated? Trying to find ways to get involved, serve, or further explore your faith? Looking to meet other new(ish) folks? Or maybe you’re wondering how one becomes a member—or what the point of membership is?

If this sounds like you, then we invite you to “Federated 101”—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others in the same boat to meet each other, learn more about who we are, and to finally ask that question you’ve had.

*\*These conversations only happen a couple times a year. Participation in a Federated 101 is needed to become a member. Childcare provided.*

## **April Love Offering | School Supplies**

The April Love Offering will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for low-income students throughout DeKalb County for next school year. Since providing these backpacks and supplies is important to helping these children start the year with the right tools, the goal for the April Love Offering is \$1,000. Working directly with area social service agencies, we typically supply between 100-200 backpacks. In early August, we will join together after worship to fill the backpacks, bless them, and send them off!

Donations of any amount are welcome. For checks, please note in the memo “School supplies.” Donations should be put in a Love Offering envelope located by the bulletins, mailed to the church, or they can be made online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>.

## **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.





# 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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