

THE
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 | May 05, 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

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

arr. Marianne Kim

Welcome & Passing the Peace

We invite you to like the video and/or say "Hi!" in the comments to let us know you're here!

Gathering Song "Song of the Body of Christ" (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

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

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

"Rituals will show up [in our lives] whether we're intentional about them or not...

[Even] in the workplace, there's all sorts of little rituals around birthdays or anniversaries or hitting milestones or shipping a product... But you want to be intentional about which rituals you lift up and celebrate because they each tell a story. We're shaped by rituals. They're not values neutral, they form us." ~ Casper ter Kuile

"Good habits automate us, helping us get things done. Rituals animate us, enhancing and enchanting our lives with something more." ~ Michael Norton

Meditation Questions

- ◆ What are the rituals—the regular rhythms/habits—that have most shaped you and how you connect to yourself, to others, to creation, or to the transcendent (positively or negatively)?
- ◆ What are the rituals that most shape you in these ways now?
- ◆ What changes could be made to your daily rhythms to ground/connect you?

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: Be here now. | **Exhale:** Choose life.

Inhale: Everything is sacred. | **Exhale:** I will honor this connection.

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 "Take, O Take Me As I Am" x2 (p. 4)

Scripture [Matthew 10:1-15; Acts 2:37-47](#)

Sermon "Gather. Go. (repeat): Rituals and Rhythms for Resurrection"

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

Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup."

Choir Anthem "Let Us Break Bread Together" arr. John Ness Beck

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

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 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" Charles Converse/arr. M. Kim
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 Church Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Jen Bastian

Ushers: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for May 12: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

"Song of the Body of Christ"

NO KE ANO'AHI'AHU

Traditional Hawaiian SONG

Adapted by David Haas

Soprano (Melody) *mp*

We ___ come to share our sto - ry, we ___ come to break the

bread, we ___ come to know our ris - ing from the ___ dead. *Fine*

VERSES:

(A)

(D)

- mp* 1. We ___ come ___ as your peo - ple, we ___
mp 2. We are called to heal the bro - ken, to be
mp 3. Bread of life and cup of prom - ise, in this
mf 4. You will lead and we shall fol - low, you will
mf 5. We will live and sing your prais - es, "Al - le

1. come ___ as your own, u - nit - ed with each
 2. hope ___ for the poor, we are called to feed the
 3. meal we all are In our dy - ing and our
 4. be the breath of life; liv - ing wa - ter, we are
 5. lu - ia" is our song. May we live in love and

1. oth - er, love ___ finds a home. ___ *mp* We ___
 2. hun - gry at ___ our ___ door. ___ *mp* We ___
 3. ris - ing, may your king - dom come. ___ *mf* We ___
 4. thirst - ing for ___ your ___ light. ___ *mf* We ___
 5. peace our whole ___ life ___ long. ___ *f* We ___

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”
David Ogden

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I will

be; set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Church Conversation, today, following worship in Dutton Hall

Grab your coffee and snack and join us for 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 might do that through a partnership with Youth Outlook as well. Youth Outlook’s Executive Director, Nancy Mullen, will be leading us in this conversation.

Pentecost (and Pancakes) Sunday, May 19th

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for an eventful Pentecost Sunday on May 19th:

- During worship, we’ll be **welcoming new members!** If you’ve attended a Federated 101 and would like to become a member of Federated, please email Pastor Eric by next Sunday, May 12th.
- After worship, we will celebrate with a special pancake breakfast

May Love Offering | CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

CASA provides trained advocates for children involved in the court system due to parental or guardian abuse or neglect. The advocates work on behalf of the child to make court recommendations and represent children as Guardian ad Litem.

Donations of any amount are welcome. For checks, please note in the memo “CASA.” 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

Click this QR code 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

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