

**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 26, 2024, 10:00 am

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

**Prelude** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" *Rick Founds/arr. M Hayes*

## **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** "We'll Build a World" (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 Question(s); move through the Breath Prayer; or sit silently as the music plays.*

*"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.' Then he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' ~ John 20:21-22*

*"The Spirit is given so that we ordinary mortals can become, in a measure, what Jesus himself was: part of God's future arriving in the present." ~ Tom Wright*

### **Meditation Question**

- ◆ What spirit do you come here filled with this morning? Can you allow yourself to breathe in—to ground yourself in—the peace of God's Spirit?

### **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:** With each breath | **Exhale:** I breathe in the Spirit of Life.

**Inhale:** With each breath | **Exhale:** I will rest into Divine 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** "For the Beauty of the Earth" *John Rutter*

**Scripture** [John 15:26-27, 16:12-15; Acts 2:42-43, 4:32-35](#)

**Sermon** "Koinonia: The Opposite of Poverty"

**Sung Response** “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” (p. 4)

**Our Shared Life & Offering**

**Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory** “Think About His Love” *Walt Harrah/arr. M 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** “Sing a New World into Being” vv. 1-3 (p. 5)

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “Song for the Nations” *Chris Christensen/arr. M. Hayes*  
*Thank you for joining us for worship!*

† † †

**WORSHIP NOTES**

*Serving us this morning are:*

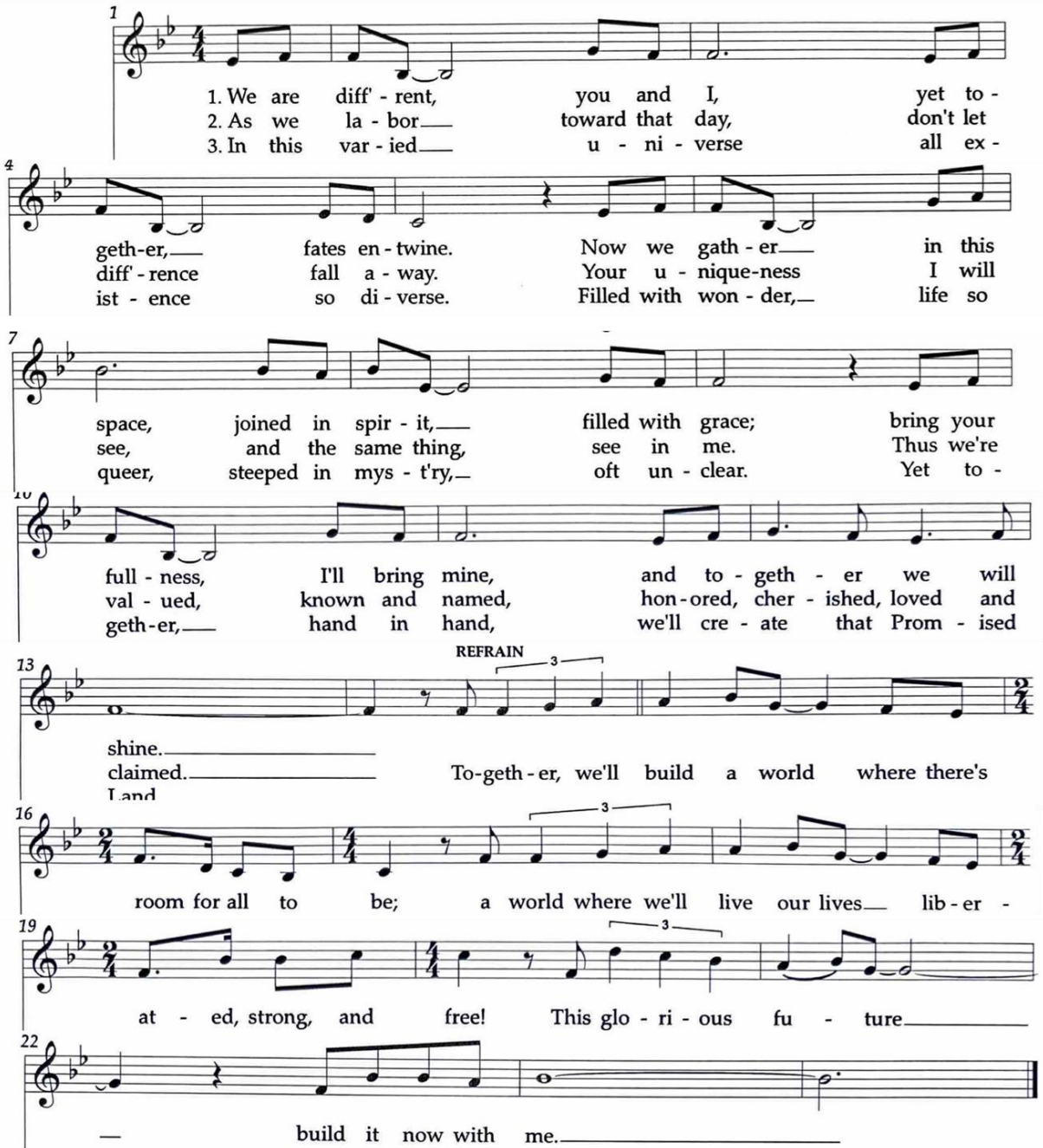
**Pastor:** Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin  
**Children’s Church Coordinator:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Pam Kitterman  
**Ushers:** Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer

*Ushers for June 2: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer*

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

# "We'll Build a World"

David Lohman



1

1. We are diff' - rent, you and I, yet to -  
2. As we la - bor toward that day, don't let  
3. In this var - ied u - ni - verse all ex -

4

geth - er, fates en - twine. Now we gath - er in this  
diff - rence fall a - way. Your u - nique - ness I will  
ist - ence so di - verse. Filled with won - der, life so

7

space, joined in spir - it, filled with grace; bring your  
see, and the same thing, see in me. Thus we're  
queer, steeped in mys - t'ry, oft un - clear. Yet to -

10

full - ness, I'll bring mine, and to - geth - er we will  
val - ued, known and named, hon - ored, cher - ished, loved and  
geth - er, hand in hand, we'll cre - ate that Prom - ised

13

REFRAIN

shine. To - geth - er, we'll build a world where there's  
I and

16

room for all to be; a world where we'll live our lives lib - er -

19

at - ed, strong, and free! This glo - ri - ous fu - ture

22

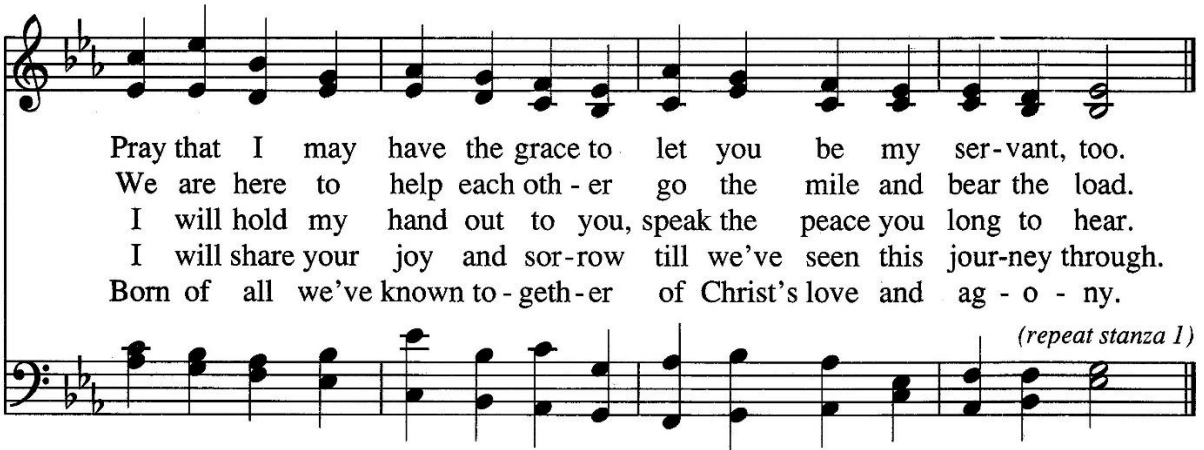
build it now with me.

# "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

Richard Gillard



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

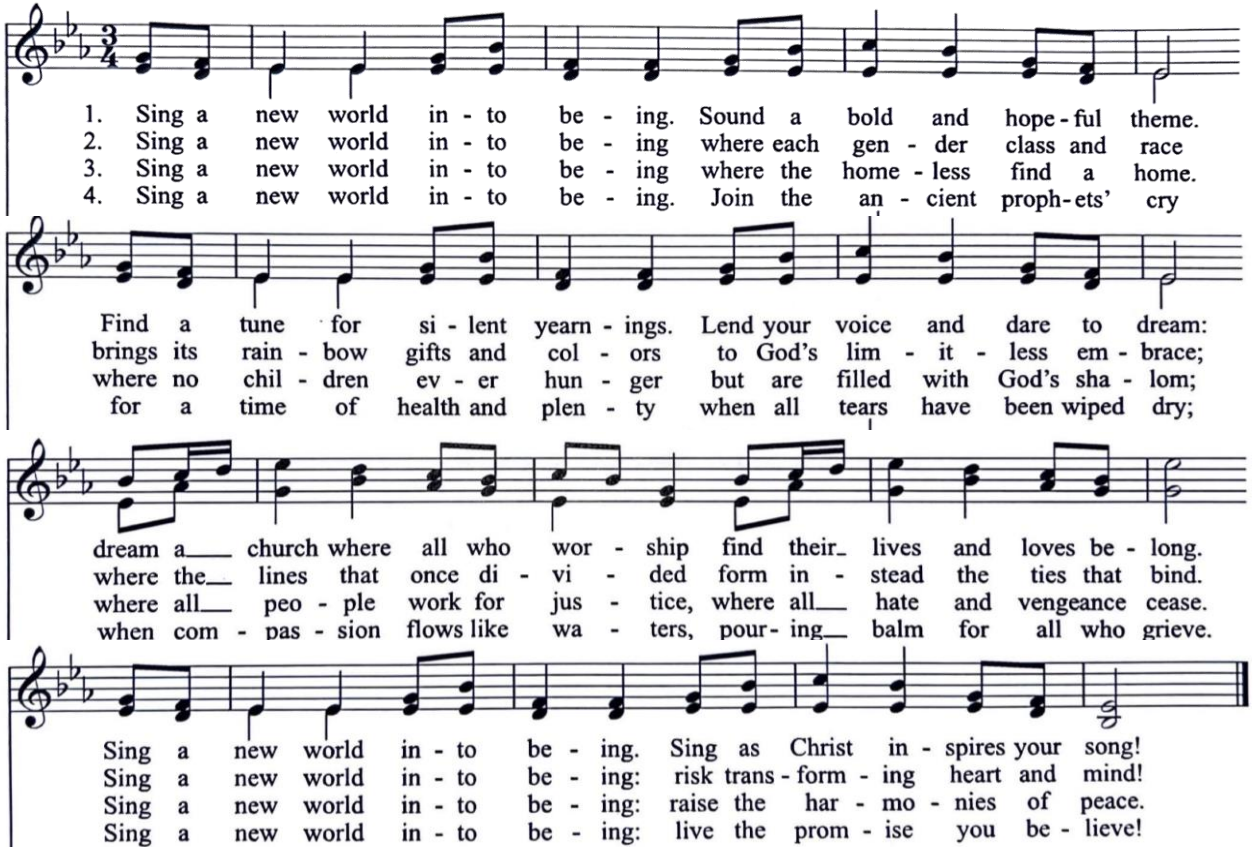


Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

*(repeat stanza 1)*

## “Sing a New World into Being”

Mary Louise Bringle



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;  
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.  
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **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>.

### **Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers**

We will recycle and reuse the bulletin covers. Please place the cover in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. You are welcome to keep the insides. Thanks!

### **Weekly eNews**

Click this QR code 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*



Follow us on

Facebook & Instagram:

@FederatedChurchSycamore



[www.fedsycamore.org](http://www.fedsycamore.org)

**Church Office Phone:** (815) 895-2706 || **Email:** [Office@fedsycamore.org](mailto:Office@fedsycamore.org)

**Pastor Eric Cell:** (815) 797-2250 || **Email** [RevEric@fedsycamore.org](mailto:RevEric@fedsycamore.org)

**Children's Church Coordinator:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe

**Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough**

**Phone:** (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** [Preschool@fedsycamore.org](mailto:Preschool@fedsycamore.org)

**Address:** 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178