

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 | June 23, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Prelude “Oh, How He Loves You and Me” Kurt Kaiser/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 “God of Many Faces” (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); Pray through the Silent Prayer; or simply sit silently as the music plays.

“He’s here in the midst of it – right at the centre of the dance floor,
robes hitched up to His knees to make it easy to spin.

At some point in the evening a boy will touch the hem of His robe and beg to be healed, beg to be anything other than this; and He will reach His arms out, sweat-damped, and weary from dance. He’ll cup the boy’s face in His hand and say,
my beautiful child there is nothing in this heart of yours that ever needs to be healed.”

~“Jesus at the Gay Bar” by Jay Hulme

Meditation Question

- ◆ What is the healing you long for? Might the healing you *need* be something other than what you *think* you need? What’s underneath the longing?

Silent Prayer ~ “For Queer Bodies,” by Cole Arthur Riley, from *Black Liturgies*
Strange God, thank you for reminding us it is okay to be incomprehensible—to be creatures of mystery and fluidity. Be near to us as we grieve the ways we’ve been pressured to conform to who others wish us to be. Renew us as we resist the temptation to perform an embodiment that isn’t true to us. But help us to have compassion for ourselves when it seems as if enacting a charade is the only way to be safe and loved. We reject the lie that our bodies are bad. We rebuke the lie that we are dirty. And we honor our truest voice, our self-knowledge as central to our own making and remaking. Against hope, we have found a way to hear the truth amid the vitriol of this world. May these queer bodies be a beacon to a world in bondage to its own binaries; may our flesh liberate the world into embodied attunement. Amen.

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 "God Loves Us In Mysterious Ways" vv. 1-5 (p. 4)

Scripture

[Mark 5:25-34](#)

Sermon

"Jesus at the Gay Bar"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

"Softly and Tenderly"

Will Thompson

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" (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude

"I Love You, Lord"

Laurie Klein/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:** Sheldon Turner
Ushers: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

Ushers for June 30: Alice Whitney and Bev & Skip Schramer

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

“God of Many Faces”
Amy Cerniglia



God of man - y fa - ces, we of - fer our praise,
God of man - y gen - ders, our world re - flects you,
God of man - y names, we in - vite you to show
God of man - y bod - ies, a - bide with - in ours,
sing - ing your glo - ry through all of our days.
sun - rise and sun - set u - ni - ting our hues,
us the new names that re - flect our true souls.
shift - ing more each day through time and through scars.
Hear ev - er grow - ing voi - ces, once fra - gile, now strong,
wo - ven in - to a ci - ty with jewels of all shades,
Breathe with your ho - ly spir - it to give us the Word
Come sanc - ti - fy our bod - ies, all fash - ioned by you,
car - ry - ing mel - o - dies in ex - pan - sive new songs.
hou - ses of ru - by and walls rowed wth jade.
that will in - dwell dry bones, grant - ing new life once heard.
ho - li - er ev - ery - day, still be - com - ing more true.

"God Loves Us in Mysterious Ways"

Edward Moran



1. God loves us in my - ster - ious ways be - yond all sin or shame;
2. More light and truth have yet to break from God's e - ter - nal Word;
3. We take a chance on God, and fall to high - er depths of love;
4. Bind up the wounds of shun and stray for pro - di - gals new found
5. "Come forth!" from deep, con - fin - ing tombs of gen - der, class, and race
6. A place where friends are swell and true and lives and loves in - creased;



rich bles - sings for our wear - y days as love dares speak its name.
sure - heart - ed and with hope we take new leaps of faith un - blurred.
in faith and flesh we heed God's call to o - pen doors a - bove.
and set us on our home - ward way un - bul - lied and un - bound.
en - gen - dered here: wide o - pen rooms that of - fer pride of place.
till all who come are wel - come to the Lamb's own mar - riage feast.

“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

Living Out Our Welcome

As we continue to ask ourselves how we can more fully live out our welcome to all of God's Beloved Children and build a community of belonging, we invite you to have your church nametag re-printed with your pronouns on them. This invitation is for everyone, but we invite you to opt-in if you so choose.



Click this QR code to fill out the form within the next week and Darlene will get these nametags printed as soon as possible! You can also reach out to Darlene at any time to ask for a new nametag or to add your pronouns!

“Ask Me Anything” Sermon Series

Have you had a question on your mind that you've wanted to ask when it comes to faith, God, or Church? Starting in July, we will begin a multi-week sermon series centered around the questions most on your minds and hearts. Nothing is off-limits: Sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll.... What do we make of all that violence in the Bible? How do we understand being Christian in relation to people of other religions? Can I be Christian and practice parts of other religions, like Buddhist meditation or yoga? Does it matter if I don't believe Mary was a virgin? What is prayer anyways and do I really have to do it? Does Christianity have anything to say about the climate crisis or gun violence epidemic? Can the pastor please preach shorter sermons?!

What's on your mind? What do you want to hear Pastor Eric speak to?

Between now and Sunday, July 6, click this QR code to add your question online or write it in the space at the bottom of your bulletin insert and mail it to the church. The sooner the better!



June Love Offering | *Strengthen the Church*

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering in June reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Local Conferences and the National Setting equally share the gifts given. The funds raised support enhancing a progressive Christian movement through leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

Donations in any amount are welcome and can be placed in the collection plate on Sunday, mailed to the church at The Federated Church, 612 W. State St., Sycamore, IL 60178 (be sure to write “Strengthen the Church” in the memo section of checks), or given 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

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