

**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 30, 2024, 10:00 am

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

## **Prelude**

“Thy Word”

A. Grant/M. Smith/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** “For Everyone Born” vv. 1, 3, 5 (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 poem below, and then: ponder the Meditation Question(s); offer a silent prayer; or simply let the music wash over you.*

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, “Speak to us of Children.”  
And he said: “Your children are not your children. They are the [children] of Life’s longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you...

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the archer’s hand be for gladness; for even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.” ~ “On Children” by Kahlil Gibran

## **Meditation Question**

- ◆ When you think about young children, is your first thought about how to teach them; to shape them in the ways that you think best? Or is your first thought about what you have to learn from them?
- ◆ “You can give them your love but not your thoughts.” Do you agree? How does an emphasis on one vs. the other shape how we relate to children?

## **Silent Prayer & 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** "These Treasured Children" vv. 1-2 (p. 4)

**Scripture** [Matthew 18:3-5, 10; 19:13-15](#)

**Sermon** "Unless You Become like Children"

**Sung Response** "These Treasured Children" vv. 3-5 (p. 4)

## **Our Shared Life & Offering**

### **Offering Opportunities**

**Offertory** "Interlude" *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** "Called as Partner's in Christ's Service" vv. 1-3 (p. 5)

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude** "I Will Enter His Gates" *Beethoven/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:** Phil Wagener  
**Ushers:** Alice Whitney and Bev & Skip Schramer

*Ushers for July 7: Paula von Ende, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer*

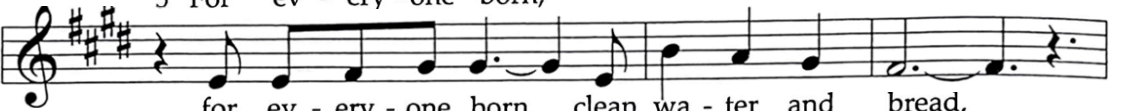
*The Centering Prayer liturgy was written by Cole Arthur Riley, and comes from Black Liturgies. All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671*

# “For Everyone Born”

Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,  
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,  
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,  
for young and for old, the right to be - long,  
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

# "These Treasured Children"



1 These treasured children present now are bound to  
2 Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our  
3 We long to trust as children do and so en-  
4 Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurtur-  
5 Then, tender God, each child embrace; God give them



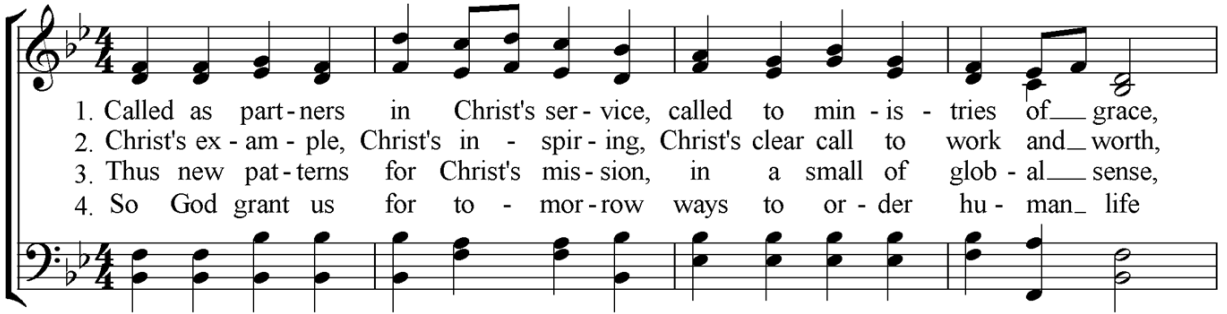
us by sacred vow: with love, we make a  
children know it well within their souls and  
trust our days to you; in their young lives we  
ing community; empower us to  
blessings, grant them grace. Surprise them, God, with



heart-felt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.  
minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.  
clearly see a lesson in humility.  
re-a-lize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.  
wonders still, and gently guide them by your love

# “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

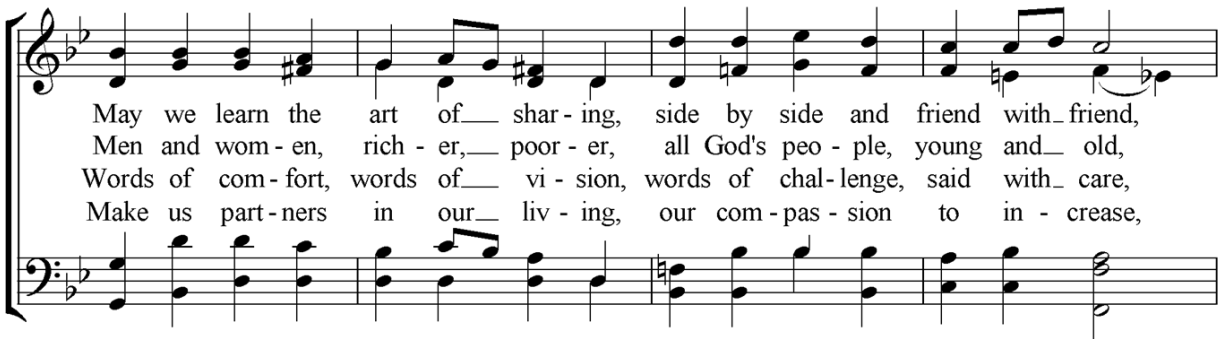
June Parker Huber



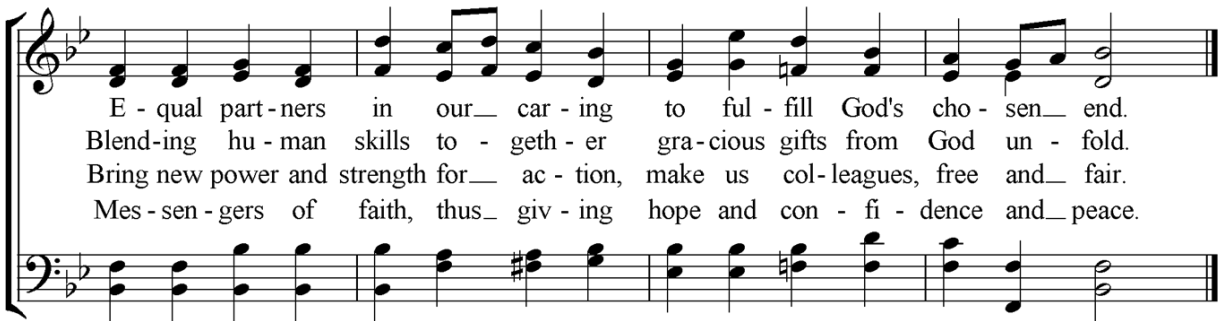
1. Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of\_\_ grace,  
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and\_\_ worth,  
3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small of glob - al\_\_ sense,  
4. So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der hu - man\_\_ life



We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to\_\_ trace.  
Let us fol - low, nev - er\_\_ fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on\_\_ earth.  
Help us bear each oth - er's\_\_ bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or\_\_ fence.  
That sur - round each per - son's. sor - row with a calm that con - quers\_\_ strife.



May we learn the art of\_\_ shar - ing, side by side and friend with\_\_ friend,  
Men and wom - en, rich - er,\_\_ poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and\_\_ old,  
Words of com - fort, words of\_\_ vi - sion, words of chal - lenge, said with\_\_ care,  
Make us part - ners in our\_\_ liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our\_\_ car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen\_\_ end.  
Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.  
Bring new power and strength for\_\_ ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and\_\_ fair.  
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus\_\_ giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and\_\_ peace.

# 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 7, click this QR code to add your question online. 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 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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