

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 | October 20, 2024, 10:00 am
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" J. McGramahan/arr. M. 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** "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

Stewardship Centering Moment

Take a moment to look through the Stewardship Time & Talents Pledge Sheet.

As you do, reflect:

- ◆ As part of this community, what do I receive from others sharing their time, talents, and passions? *Offer a prayer of gratitude for the ways their faithfulness blesses you.*
- ◆ What can I pledge in time, talent, and passion to help serve others and grow this "Community of Hope"? *Offer a prayer for courage in the year ahead.*

Sung Response "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" vv. 1 & 2 (p. 4)

Scripture [Luke 15:1-2, 11-32](#)

Sermon "The Church as a Field Hospital"

Sung Response "Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness" vv. 1, 2, 5 (p.5)

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory Anthem “God of Simple Things” *Pamela Martin/arr. L. Larson*

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 “Lead Us From Death to Life” *vv. 1 & 3 (p. 6)*

Benediction

Postlude “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” *G.J. Webb/arr. M. Kim*
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

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: Pam & Nate Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

Ushers for November 3: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer
All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” *Robert Robinson*



1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

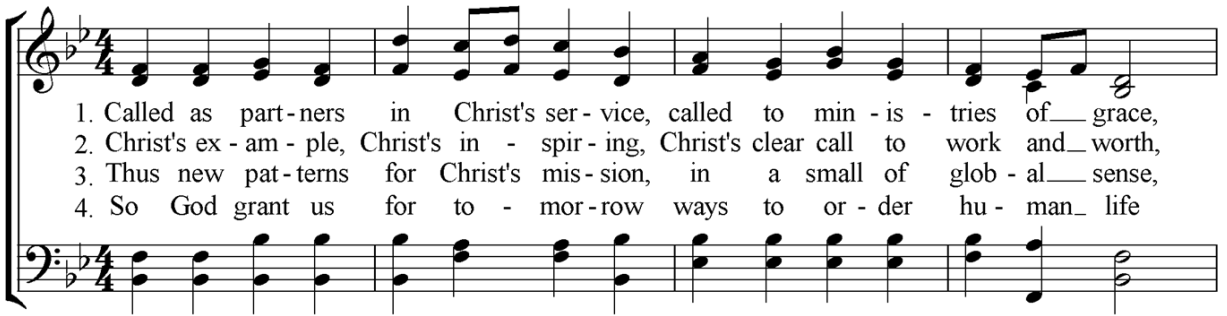


Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” *June Parker Huber*



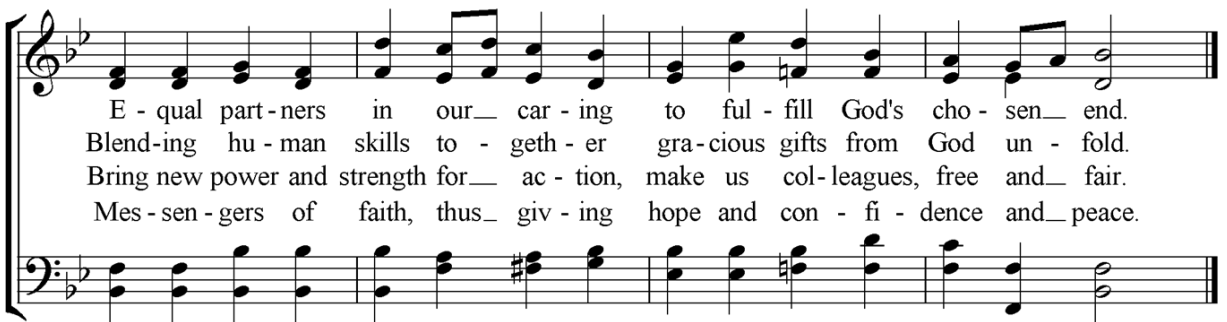
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of__ grace,
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and__ worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small of glob-al__ sense,
4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man__ life



We re-pond 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-quests. 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.

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness *Bernadette Farrell*



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain

G C G Em Bm Em



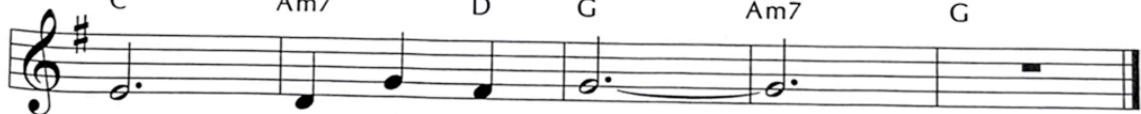
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G



church gath - ered to - day.

“Lead Us from Death to Life” Satish Kumar / Marty Haugen

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stanzas

Dm7 G Em7 Am

1 Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 2 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 3 Let jus-tice ev - er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship 2024: "A Future with Hope" | October 6 – November 10

Our guiding theme this year comes from Jeremiah 29:11: "**A Future with Hope.**" Throughout this season, we'll explore how this theme might shape who we become and what we do in the year ahead. I hope you'll join us in considering what you can offer in "time, talents, and treasure" to help us grow our ministries so we can make this vision real. Key upcoming Stewardship dates to remember:

- **November 3: All Saints Day Commemoration;** *bring a picture to worship of a loved one who has passed away to place on our altar.*
- **November 10: Pledge Dedication Sunday;** *bring your pledge form(s) to worship—Financial and/or Time & Talents—and we will bless them together.*

Governance Revitalization Task Force Update, Today, after worship

The Governance Revitalization Task Force will present an update focusing on the organization of the "Ministry" side of our proposed model. The presentation will include examples from what we are currently doing (and even have done in the past) as we try to better understand how we will organize our ministries moving forward.

Please bring your questions and feedback to help shape the process for "what to do with an idea" for ministry and how to put our faith into action moving forward.

The Task Force: Gip Seaver, Sharon McKee, Jerry Lane, Nancy Renfer, and Pastor Eric.

Hurricane Helene Relief Effort: CWS Cleaning Buckets

Together we raised 1,294 to support this project! THANK YOU to all who donated! Supplies are being purchased and buckets assembled, which will then be dropped off at a nearby Church World Service depot and delivered directly to individuals in need.

No Worship Pumpkinfest Sunday, Sunday, October 27

Worship will not be held on Sunday, October 27, due to the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival 10K race, parade and other activities that day.

Church Office Closed, Tuesday, October 22 through Friday, October 25

Office closed while the staff is on vacation.

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.



Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We will reuse the cardstock bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. You may keep the insides. Thanks!

Ways that I Pledge to offer my time and talents in the year ahead

Stewardship 2024: A Future with Hope

Below is a list of ways you can pledge your time/talents in the year ahead. Please mark any area you have an interest. Indicating interest is just that; it's not something you're beholden to!

There are no Boards or Committees listed. Inspired by the work of our Governance Revitalization Task Force, we're interested not in signing you up to attend meetings, but in learning about your interests, passions, and talents so as to empower you to live out and grow in your faith. This will also help guide the planning and organizing of our ministries in the year ahead.

Bring this "pledge" sheet by itself or along with your financial pledge card to worship on Sunday, Nov. 10th so that we can bless everyone's offerings during worship together!

Someone will be in touch with you about possibilities, to answer your questions, and to discuss training/orientation (if needed) as we move into the new year!

Name: _____

Worship

Music Ministries

- Special Music:
 - Instrument: _____
 - Vocal
- Drumming with Harambee
- Adult Choir
- Helping Coordinate a Children's Choir
- Worship Planning with Pastor
(scriptures, themes, prayer stations, etc.)

Worship Design and Leadership

- Liturgist
- Reading Scripture
- Creative Arts
 - Altar design/decorating

- Photography
- Dance
- Creating Prayer Stations
(e.g. Advent & Lent)
- Other: _____
- Decorating Church for Advent

Communion Ministry

- Participating in a group that makes/bakes bread for Communion *(no prior knowledge / skill necessary!)*
- Preparing bread & juice on Communion Sunday
- Serving Communion during worship

Tech Ministry

- Run Worship Livestream
- Run PowerPoint for Sanctuary Screen
- Run Soundboard

Children's Ministries

- Assist with Children's Church
- Help Coordinate Occasional Intergenerational Craft Activities
(*e.g. during Advent or Lent*)

Hospitality Ministry

- Greeter / welcoming people to worship
- Ushering
- Post-Service Fellowship
 - Providing snacks/juice
 - Hosting & Cleanup
- Bringing dish to Potlucks
- Funeral usher/greeter
- Funeral Receptions

Spiritual Growth & Formation

- Faith & Life Book Discussions
(*examples: Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians; The Cross and the Lynching Tree*)
- Bible Studies
- Spiritual Practices (*e.g. Prayer, Meditation, Holy Listening, etc.*)
- Weekly Virtual Prayer Group
- Other: _____

Building & Campus

Stewardship

- Gardening Ministry
- Fall and Spring Church Cleanup
- Library Ministry

Congregational Care/Connection

- Fall Fest Planning
- Coordinating Community Dinners
- Board/Card Game Group
- Prayer Shawl
- Caring Ministry
calling & visiting those in need
- Affinity Group—*could have spiritual or social focus (or both, decided by group)*
 - Parents
 - Women's
 - Men's
 - Teen Youth Group
 - Other: _____

Social Justice & Community Engagement

- Backpack Ministry
- Feed My Starving Children Ministry
- "Meals on Wheels" Ministry
(*partnership w/ Voluntary Action Center— we deliver meals to those who are*

homebound—in April and September)

- Fundraisers (*support various ministries*)
 - *Thrift Sale*
 - *Plant Sale*
 - *Book Sale*
 - *Other:* _____
 - Habitat for Humanity Build
 - Other Service/Volunteer Opportunity:
-

Administration

- Preparing Mailings
- Help with Website
- Accounting / Assisting office with Church Finances
- Preschool Support

Anything Else?

How else would you like to offer your time and talents? What would you like more information about? What would you like to see happening that is not? We'd love to hear your ideas!

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

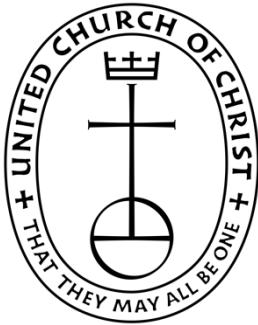
We are an "Open and Affirming" congregation, which is our way of saying that we value diversity. In a time of deep division, we believe it is paramount to gather people from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and identities in order to build authentic relationships and community. We believe that 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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@FederatedChurchSycamore



www.fedsycamore.org

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

Children's Church Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

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

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