

**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 | November 24, 2024, 10:00 am

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

**Prelude** "Give Thanks" Henry 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** "God, We Thank You for Our People" (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 Reflection; offer a silent prayer; or simply let the music wash over you.*

"Gratitude calls us to sit together, to imagine the world as a table of hospitality. To feed one another. To feast, to dance in the streets. To know and celebrate abundance... It rearranges the way we see and experience what is all around us. It gives us a new story. [In that sense,] Gratitude is defiance of sorts. It untwists knotted hearts, waking us to a new sense of who we are as individuals and in community. Being thankful is the very essence of what it means to be alive, and to know that life abundantly." ~ Dr. Diana Butler Bass, *Grateful*

### **Silent Meditation Reflection**

- ◆ Call to mind a story about a person, place or thing for which you are grateful today. Offer a prayer of gratitude and/or find a way to let that person know.

### **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** "Come and Find the Quiet Center" (p. 4)

## Scripture

**Sermon** "The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks"

**Choir Anthem** "Sing to the Lord of Harves" Robert Wetzler

## **Our Shared Life & Offering**

### **Offering Opportunities**

#### **Offertory**

“We Gather Together”

*arr. Mark Looney*

#### **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** “For the Beauty of the Earth” (p. 5)

### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”

*Kirk Dearman/arr. M. Hayes*

*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:** Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

*Ushers for December 1: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer*

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

## “God, We Thank You for Our People” *Ruth Duck*



1. God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,  
3 Still we must con - fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.  
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,  
though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-ailed.  
ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.

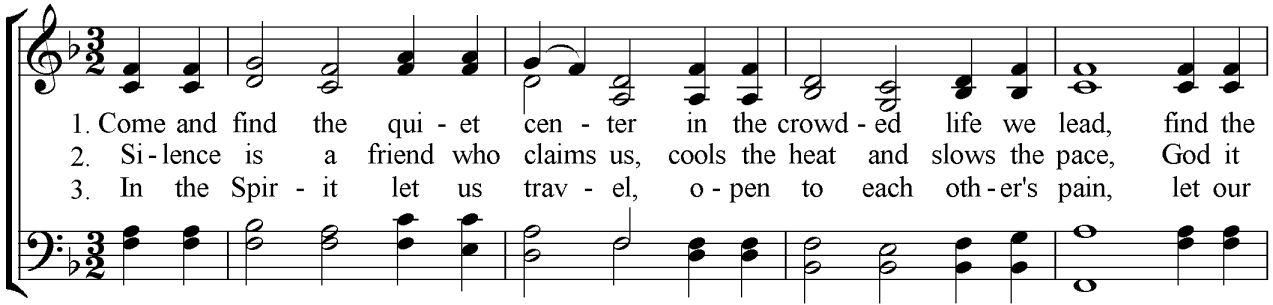


Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:  
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.  
Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame  
Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar - ing life and death and birth,

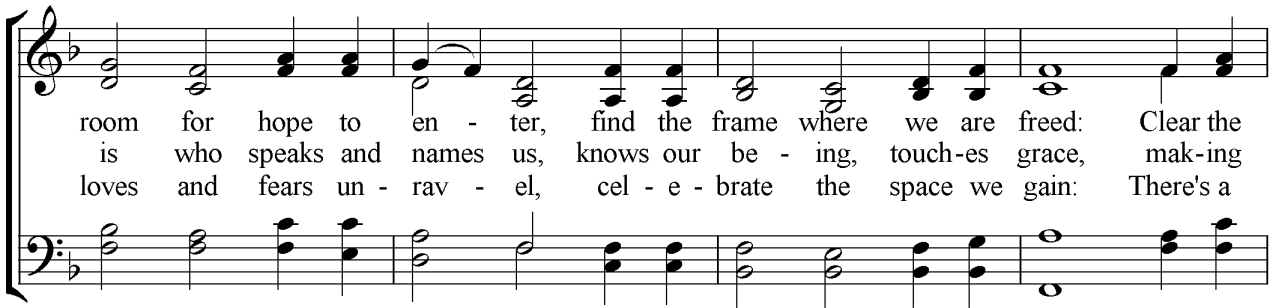


Here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.  
God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.  
You trans - form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!  
Wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.

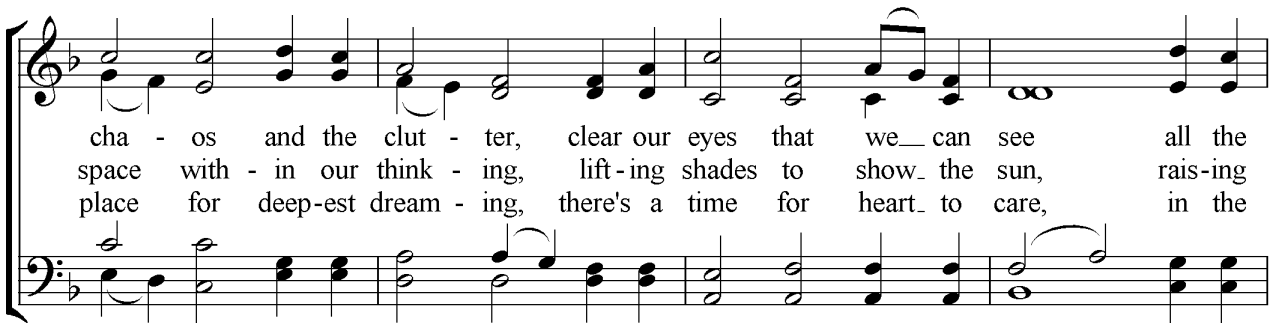
# "Come and Find the Quiet Center" Shirley Erena Murray



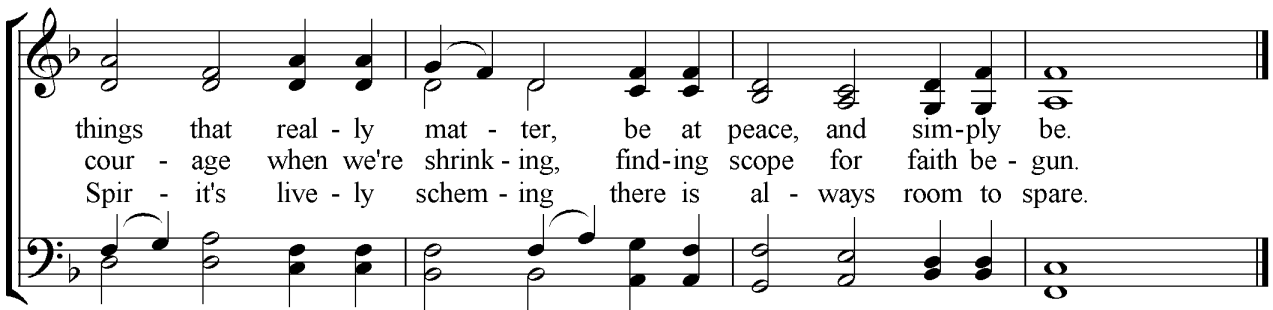
1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowd-ed life we lead, find the  
2. Si-lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it  
3. In the Spir-it let us trav-el, o-pen to each oth-er's pain, let our



room for hope to en-ter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the  
is who speaks and names us, knows our be-ing, touch-es grace, mak-ing  
loves and fears un-rav-el, cel-e-brate the space we gain: There's a



cha-os and the clut-ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the  
space with-in our think-ing, lift-ing shades to show the sun, rais-ing  
place for deep-est dream-ing, there's a time for heart-to care, in the



things that real-ly mat-ter, be at peace, and sim-ply be.  
cour-age when we're shrink-ing, find-ing scope for faith be-gun.  
Spir-it's live-ly schem-ing there is al-ways room to spare.

**"For the Beauty of the Earth"** F. Pierpoint / M. T. Winter



1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Decorate the Church** | *Today, after worship*

All ages are invited to join us after worship today to decorate the church for the Advent season, which begins next Sunday. Many hands make light work!

## **Advent Workshop and Potluck** | *December 1, after worship*

Join us for a potluck meal and a variety of inter-generational Advent crafts after worship on December 1! Chicken and beverages will be provided as well as table service and silverware. Sign up in Dutton Hall.

**Federated 101**, *Tentatively Sunday December 8, 11:20-12:20pm, Settle Room*  
New(ish) to Federated? Trying to find ways to get involved, serve, or further explore your faith? Looking to meet other new(ish) folks? Or maybe you're wondering how one becomes a member—or what the point of membership is? If this sounds like you, then we invite you to “Federated 101”—a chance to gather around a table for a conversation with Pastor Eric and others in the same boat to meet each other, learn more about who we are, and to finally ask that question you’ve had.

*\*These conversations only happen a couple times a year. Participation in a Federated 101 is needed to become a member. Childcare provided. Sign-up in Dutton Hall or via the eNews.\**

## **Stewardship**

Thank you to everyone who joined us to bless our pledges for 2025 last Sunday. Whether you made a financial pledge, a time and talents pledge, or both—we are reminded that our vital and growing ministries are only possible because we offer ourselves to make them so! *And because of you, our church changes lives!* Pledges can still be turned into the church office through December 9. Financial pledge cards and time and talent pledge sheets can be found at the back of the sanctuary or see the weekly eNews for online links.

## **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**

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.





# 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