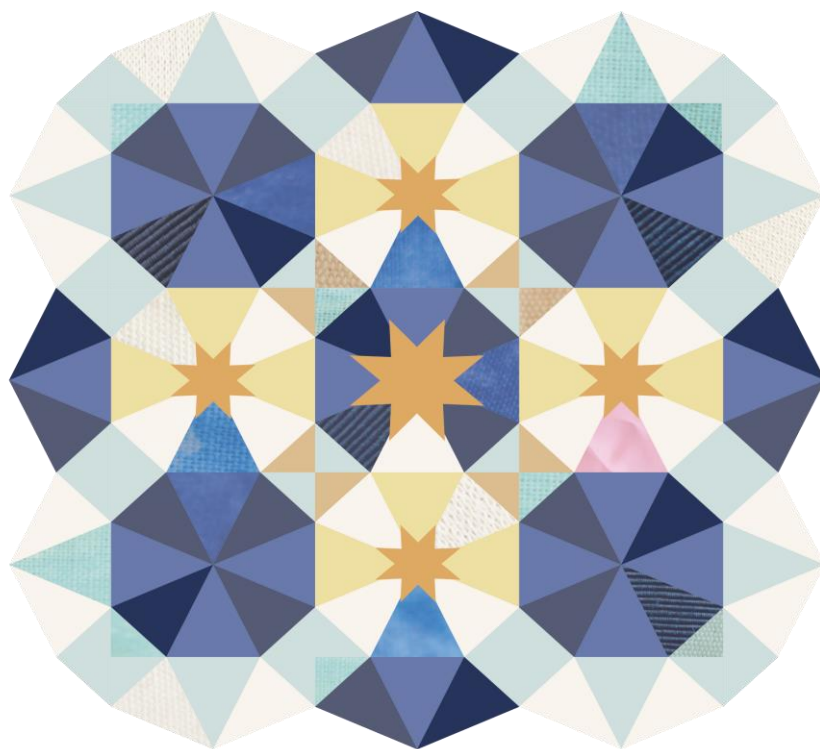


THE **Federated Church** OF SYCAMORE



FOR THE BEGINNING

ADVENT REMINDERS FOR NEW SEASONS

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 ridiculed, 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 a reminder 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 | January 05, 2025
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude "All Earth Rejoices" G.F. Handel/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 Hymn** "Within Our Hearts Be Born" (*bulletin, p. 2*)

Prayers of the People

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.

Choir Anthem "These Precious Gifts" L.M. Nash/G. Mattin

Scripture [Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 43:16-21](#)

Sermon "The Road Isn't Straight"

Sung Response "The Road Winds Ever On" (*bulletin, p.3*)

***Responding to God's Invitation: Prayer Stations** (*see insert for instructions*)

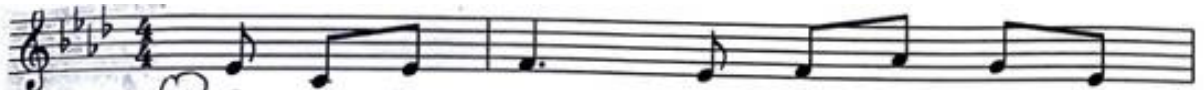
Our Shared Life: Offering Invitations

***Sending Hymn** "Arise Your Light Is Come" (*bulletin, p.4*)

Benediction

Postlude "Joy to the World" G.F. Handel/arr M. Hayes
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

“Within Our Hearts Be Born” *Michael Joncas*



1 O an - cient love, pro - cess - ing through the
2 O home - less love, that dwells a - mong the
3 O gen - tle love, car - ess - ing those in
4. O suf - f'ring love, that bears our hu - man



a - ges: O hid - den love, re - vealed in hu - man
stran - ger: O low - ly love, that knows the might - y's
sor - row: O ten - der love, that com - forts those for -
weak - ness: O bound - less love, that ris - es with the



form: O prom - ised love, the dream of seers and
scorn: O hun - gry love, that lay with - in a
lorn: O hope - ful love, that prom - is - es to -
morn: O might - y love, con - cealed in in - fant



sa - ges:
man - ger: O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be
mor - row:
meek - ness:



born, O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be borne.

"The Road Winds Ever On" *Anna Strickland*



Fears of stray - ing from the path - way Plant - ed deep
All our best laid plans can sha - tter Leav - ing us
A world con - stant - ly in mo - tion E - vades our



in child - hood Come to haunt us when the road ends
to mourn the loss Of the fu - ture we im - a - gined
at - tempts to know What may be a - round the cor - ner



And the way a - head is ob - scured Then the Spi - rit
And feel like our life is on pause At the edge the
Or where a - ny road — will go So the Spi - rit



wraps a - round us To pro - tect and re - as - sure
Spi - rit's wait - ing There to fer - ry us a - cross
stirs with - in us To be car - ried by the flow

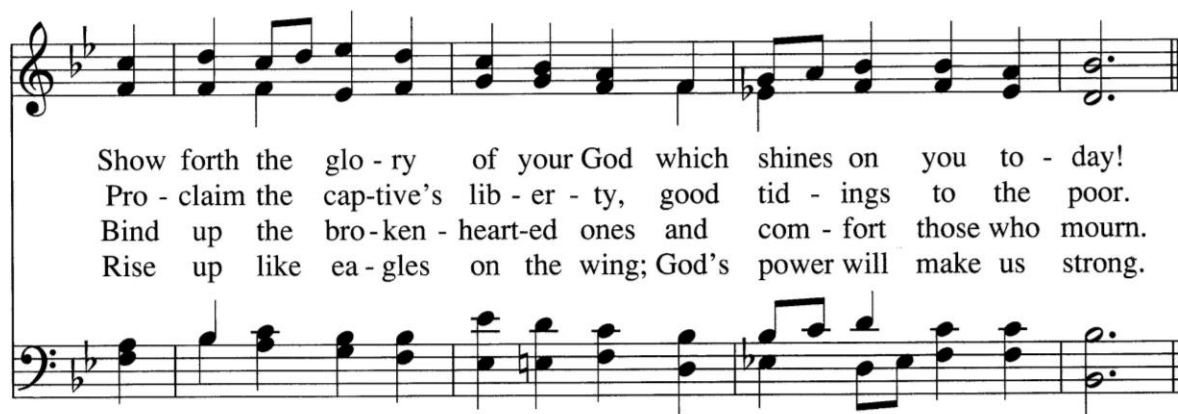


And the road winds e - ver on _____

“Arise, Your Light Is Come” *Ruth Duck*



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

† † †

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:**

Ushers: Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for Sunday, Jan. 12: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

All hymns this morning come from *The New Century Hymnal* unless noted otherwise, and are used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January Love Offering, Pastoral Community Emergency Fund

The Love Offering for January will benefit the "Pastoral Community Emergency Fund." Through monies donated to this church fund, Pastor Eric is able to help members of our wider community (not just church members) seeking emergency assistance with bills like: rent, utilities, and medical, as well as purchase gas, groceries, and more. This Love Offering comprises what we have to give to our neighbors over the whole year. Love Offering envelopes will be at the "Table of Offering" prayer station. Any amount is welcome and will help us reach our goal! Be sure to write Pastor's Emergency Fund on the memo line of checks and on envelopes for cash donations. Select "Emergency Fund Contributions" when giving online.

Intro to the Bible Small Group, January-February; Date/Time TBD

We're looking forward to beginning our journey exploring the Bible in the coming weeks! For those who who signed up, watch for an email from Pastor Eric this week with more information. If you haven't signed up but still want to participate, please email Pastor Eric.

December Love Offering, Hope Haven's Night by Night Campaign

Thank you to all those who contributed to our Love Offering fundraiser for Hope Haven to help provide a warm bed and meal for members of our community currently experiencing homelessness. Together we raised \$770!

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

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

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