

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



everything
[in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

Lent 2025

Responding to God's Invitation

Prayer Stations at home for online worshippers

Lent is an invitation to journey through the things we tend to avoid—our doubts, fears, griefs, wounds, and even death. This Lent, though, we are inviting you to hold the “both/and” of life—for even amidst our doubts, we do believe in something; in the face of fear, we experience courage; our wounds can make way for connection; and even death can be the seedbed for new life. Let's meet God here, in the midst of life's polarities.

During this time (~10 min), people in the sanctuary will be visiting various prayer stations. While we can't re-create that experience for you at home, here are some ways you can use this time to create sacred space and connection for yourself wherever you are!

Waiting in the Wilderness: Some seasons of life feel like wilderness wandering. Even here, God is present. We, too, are invited to be present—even here.

Meditate on the poem (p. 5 in the bulletin). This will be a new poem each week. As you read, notice what word jumps out at you; what feeling(s) arise(s) in you.

When you finish, take a few slow deep breaths and read the poem again. This time, listen for how these words are calling you to action. Reflect on the prompt beneath the poem.

Divine Seeing: *Pause to look more deeply at the artwork (on p. 7) inspired by today's scripture. As you do, ponder the questions and Artist's Statement (p. 8) beneath it.*

Prayer Candles: Lighting candles as one prays for a loved one or a people / place around the world who are weary, war-torn, grieving, or suffering is an ancient spiritual practice. *Find a candle, bring it into your space with you and, as you light it, offer any prayers for yourself, loved ones, or people around the world.*

Table of Offering: We are grateful to continue expanding our accessibility online, growing our intergenerational community in person, and offering a bold witness of love and justice in the wider world. As a small church/nonprofit, none of this is possible without many donations, large and small. Your donations to the “general fund” will especially help us enhance our growing children's ministries and accessibility for young families. *If our worship or ministries have blessed you, we invite you to consider making a donation to support them or our Love Offering partner through [this link](#).*

Practices for Living in the Messy Middle: In Lent, we intentionally focus on practices that help us live more fully amidst the mess, brokenness, and uncertainty, trusting that as we do, healing, hope, and new life *will* emerge—even here. [Click here](#) for an e-reader version of our Lenten devotional filled with poetry, art, question prompts, and short essay reflections. Commit to using this devotional as a spiritual practice during Lent. Use the question prompts to deepen conversation with a partner, friend, or (grand)child!

Order of Worship | April 13, 2025 | 10:00 am

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

Prelude "Hymn of Promise" *Natalie Sleeth/arr. M. Kim*

Palm Procession "Hosanna" *Tim Rice/A.L. Weber*
Enjoy the in-person "Palm Procession." Sing along (p 4)!

Welcome

Scripture [Luke 19:35-40](#)

Passing the Peace & Gathering Song "Hosanna in the Highest" (p.2)

We invite you to like the video and/or say "Hi!" in the comments to let us know you're here.

Centering Our Hearts

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Parent who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin(g)dom come, your 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Illumination "Two Processions" *solo by Ryan Washabaugh*

Scripture [Luke 19:41-42, 45-47](#)

Sermon "Silence AND Shouting"

Sung Response "There Is a Time for Silence" vv. 1, 3, 5 (p.3)

Prayer Stations: Responding to God's Invitation (see inside bulletin cover)

Preparing to Live God's Love

Our Shared Life

Sending Song "Will You Come and Follow Me?" (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude "Be Not Afraid" *Bob Dufford/arr. M. Kim*
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

"Hosanna in the Highest"
by Joan & Karl Kay

Ho - san - na!

Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho

san - na! Sing prai - ses to the Lord!

Ho san - na! Ho

13 san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na!

Sing prai - ses to the Lord! (Last time to Coda)

17
1. Bles - sed is the One, bles - sed is the One, who
2. Glo - ry to our God, glo - ry to our God, re

21 comes in the name of the Lord! Ho
joice

Coda

23 Bles - sed is the One, who comes! Ho - san - na!

ff Shout...

“There Is a Time for Silence”
by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette and Phil Hart



1. There is a time for si - lence, a time to list - en well, a
 2. There is a time for ask - ing, a time to pause and pray, there
 3. There's time for hum - ble stud - y,— for read - ing and for thought. God,
 4. There's time for good re - flec - tion, to pon - der who we've been, to
 5. And there's a time to work now— to bold - ly say their names, to



1. time to hear the pain - ful sto - ries oth - ers have to tell. O,
 2. is a time to hear the pro - phets speak of God's new day, to
 3. may we learn from oth - ers of the jus - tice they have sought. And
 4. think how our own at - ti - tudes have paved the way for sin, to
 5. pro - test and to or - gan - ize, to ad - vo - cate for change, to



1. God, may we who love to talk now hear the rage and fear, and
 2. hear the words of Je - sus who taught wel - come, truth, and love, to
 3. may we learn from those who brave - ly stand a - gainst the hate, so
 4. list - en to the ones we fear, to folks we may re - sent, to
 5. use our voi - ces and to stand with those who are op - pressed. As



1. may we learn from neigh - bors who have long been si - lenced here.
 2. hear the Spir - it speak - ing through the ones who shout, "E - nough!"
 3. when we're called to jus - tice, we, your church, won't hes - i - tate.
 4. hear of Je - sus' call to love— and hum - bly to re - pent.
 5. we seek jus - tice hand in hand, Lord, may your world be blessed.

“Will You Come and Follow Me?”

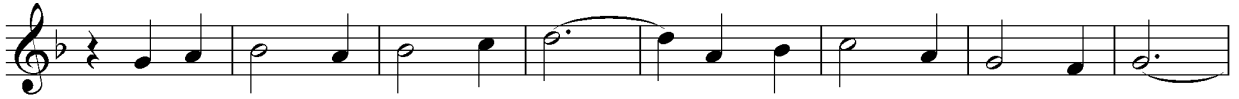
by John Bell & the Iona Community



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call your name?
3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
4. God, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, ___ will you let my name be known, -
Will you risk the hos - tile stare ___ should your life at - tract or scare? _
Will you use the faith you've found ___ to re - shape the world a - round, _
In your com - pa - ny I'll go ___ where your love and foot - steps show. _



___ will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
___ Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
___ through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
___ Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

“Hosanna”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, ___ Ho -
Bless - ed is ___ the one who comes in the name of our God. ___

5



san - na in ___ the high - est ___ Ho - san - na in ___ the high - est.



Waiting in the Wilderness

"If You Really Listen..."

In the city you'll hear horns, the clatter of the subway, mothers calling to their children, saying, *"Take my hand before we cross the street."*

You'll hear church bells, Salvation Army bells, people asking for spare change, while others ask for directions. You'll hear the whistle from the traffic cop, the exhaust from the bus, that *a train is arriving in two minutes.*

You'll hear mothers selling fresh mango, theater kids selling tickets, and religious groups selling ideas.

But even with all that shouting, even with all that noise, the birds still sing.

Against all odds, thanks be to God, the birds still sing.

by Rev. Sarah Speed

Where am I on the spectrum?

As you ponder this week's polarities—*shouting & silence*—consider where you would place yourself. Do you feel more strongly aligned to one end or the other, or more in the middle?

Consider how your location on the spectrum reflects where you are in your faith journey. Is your current location different from previous seasons of life? Is God calling you to move in a particular direction now?

Take this insert home with you and offer a prayer asking God to grant you what you need as you journey ahead.

shouting-----silence





I Believe

by Steve Prince

Inspired by Luke 19:29-40

Pen and ink on paper



It is said that the true confession that flows from one's heart and lips and professes that they are a sinner and desire to be healed, is essentially the key to unlocking one's salvation. Amid a sometimes turbulent and chaotic world, if we enter with faith and Christ in our hearts we shall be delivered. The figure's hands are lifted in praise as he navigates the flood of life which can be overbearing. He recognizes that the flood of life is symbolic of sin and separation from God. He closes his eyes, humbles himself before God, and he is delivered into a new chapter of his life, triumphant.

—Steve Prince

Prompts for contemplation

- Look closely at the waves. What does the flood of life represent for you?
- Notice the contrast between the house on one side and the man on the other. What emotions or thoughts do these images evoke?
- How does the image of Jesus on a donkey influence your understanding of this scene? What do you make of its placement in this work?
- Notice the abstract shaded area at the top. Does it feel like a cloud, storm, or something else? Does this texture remind you of God's presence?

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Music Director:** Gary Mattin
Children’s Church Director: Bill O’Hagan | **Childcare Support:** Janis Schnurr-Trebe
Liturgist: Pam Kitterman | **Ushers:** Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, April 20: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl
All music this morning is used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service | *Thursday, April 17, 5:30-7:30 PM*

Join us for our intergenerational Maundy Thursday service, beginning with dinner at 5:30pm in Dutton Hall. When the adults move into the sanctuary, children will go to the Chapel with Mr. Bill to engage the rest of the story in a developmentally appropriate way. RSVP online or in Dutton Hall by April 13.

Easter Sunday Worship | *Sunday, April 20, 10 AM*

Join us for a special Easter Sunday service, including a pick-up choir of the “Hallelujah Chorus.” Extra copies are available on the piano up front to take home and practice. Gary will gather for a run-through on Easter at 9:30am. If you feel confident in your part, you can also just jump in during the service! There will be Children’s Church, and children from visiting family/friends are welcome, as always, to join or to stay in the sanctuary.

Common Table DeKalb | *Dutton Hall, Friday, April 25, 6-8pm*

We are excited to finally share that we will be hosting a “Common Table DeKalb” gathering on Friday, April 25, from 6-8pm. Co-hosting the event with us will be the *Muslim Community of DeKalb County*. Common Table DeKalb is a year-long, county-wide initiative that Federated helped launch this year. It brings together diverse cross-sections of our community to *eat together* (over a FREE catered meal) and to *share stories* about our lives, struggles, and resilience. The goal is that, as we deepen our connections, partnerships will form so that we can work together to address needs in our community. *A link to RSVP will be shared in this week’s eNews. Space will be limited, and an RSVP will be required to participate.*

If you are interested in helping Pastor Eric with hosting—setup or cleanup—please reach out to Pastor Eric or let Darlene know in the church office.

April Love Offering | *One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)*

OGHS engages UCC congregations across the country to multiply our impact in disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and development initiatives around the world. Offering envelopes and stories of impact can be found at the *Table of Offering Prayer Station*. *Please indicate OGHS if giving by check.*

Pastor Eric's Sabbatical

This week, those signed up to receive emails from Federated Church should have received one from our Moderator, Chris Borresen, and Pastor Eric about Pastor's upcoming sabbatical May 1 – July 31. *Copies of those letters are available on the credenza at the back of Dutton Hall.* The Leadership Board will also be hosting a post-service conversation about the church's ministry during the sabbatical in early May. Watch for more information to come.

Pastor Eric's last Sunday before sabbatical will be April 27 (though he will be "in the office" through the end of the month). His first Sunday back will be August 3.

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.



Church Calendar: Coming up at Federated!

Did you know there is a Master Calendar of church/building related activities? Scan this QR code to see what's going on!

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.

We believe 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.

We believe in 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 working for 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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