

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 | August 03, 2025, 10:00 am

Today we will be taking communion. We invite you to participate however you're best able. Feel free to use whatever you have for the "bread and cup"—whether it's bread & grape juice or a cookie & coffee.

God takes our ordinary offerings, whatever they are, and blesses them as we share them together!

*All music can be found at the back of the bulletin. Please join in reading those parts printed in **bold**.*

Prelude "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" James McGranahan/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. 4)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love.

Take a slow, deep breath. Open your heart and mind to receive this meditation. Notice the feelings and sensations it brings up in you. Don't judge or even try to understand them. Just try to stay present to the moment and let yourself experience them.

Visual Meditation

*"Sabbath" **

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.**

Sung Response "Ground and Source of All That Is" (p. 3)

Scripture [Mark 2:23-27](#)

Sermon "Let Yourself Be Human"

Musical Meditation

Holy Communion

We practice an "open table"—everyone is welcome to receive God's gifts. There is no age you must be or dogma you must believe. God meets us where we are—amidst our questions, fears, and failures—and offers us nourishment & a blessing on life's journey.

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing Bread & Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Litany of Sabbatical Thanksgiving & Re-Covenanting

Leader: God of Life, today we gather with gratitude in our hearts for the return of our pastor and teacher, Eric Ogi.

All: Having sent him into a time of release and renewal with our prayers and blessings, today we celebrate that our ministries enjoin us to each other once again.

Leader: Ever-Renewing God, we are excited to hear how drawing near to You has inspired and renewed Pastor Eric in his call to ministry, and to share how we have also been changed through this sabbatical journey.

All: God of Abundance, we thank you for all those who stepped up to lead us through this sabbatical. For every person who has: extended hospitality and welcome to newcomers; who has served in worship or in Fellowship Hour; who has prayed for, called, or visited those in need; who has gathered others in Beloved Community; for everyone who has helped us live into our calling to do justice and to love mercy — thank you, God!

Leader: We thank you especially for the dedication, faithfulness, and leadership of: our Moderator Team, Leadership Board, and our Caring Ministry; for Music Director, Gary Mattin, and Children's Ministry Director, Bill O'Hagan. And we thank you for the Reverends Joe Gastiger and John Dorhauer who graciously ministered to us over these months.

Pastor Eric: Thank you, Federated Church, for the life-changing gift of this sabbatical renewal, and for your prayers and blessings along the way. I return to you with a renewed spirit and deep love and gratitude. I am eager to hear about your journeys and to share about mine as we reunite in ministry.

All: God of New Beginnings, today we recommit to our ministries together. As we do, grow in us: love and justice, grace and forgiveness, courage and steadfastness. Amen.

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

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

"As We Gather at Your Table" (p. 5)

Benediction

Postlude

"Down at the Cross" John H. Stockton/arr. M. Kim
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

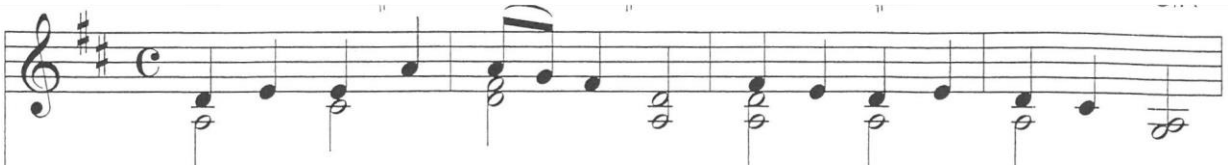
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WORSHIP NOTES

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: Karen Hamingson | **Ushers:** Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, August 10: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer
*All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright License #3234671; CCLI Streaming License #22467093 | * The Visual Meditation this morning is written and produced by The Work of the People, and is used with permission | theworkofthepeople.org*

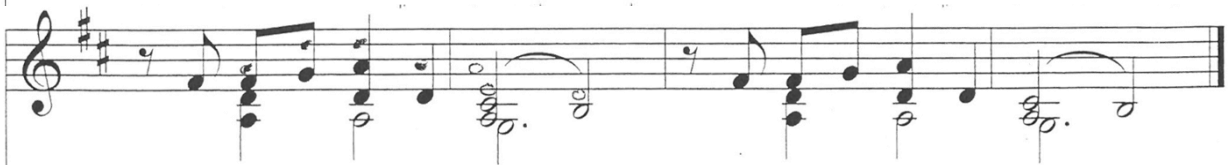
"Ground and Source of All That Is" by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan



Ground and source of all that is, one that an - chors all our roots,
Lov - er of ten thou - sand names, ho - ly pres - ence all have known,
Nat - ure by whose laws we live, au - thor of our d - n - a,
En - er - gy of heav'n - ly spheres, spark with - in the in - sect mind,
Call to kind - ness, call to serve, free - dom for our chos - en course,



Be - ing of all ways and forms, deep - est home and fi - nal truth.
Beau - ty ev - er wel - com - ing, my - ster - y to stir the soul.
All - com - pel - ling call to life, draw - ing one and all the same.
Un - seen pulse to charge our plans, bring - ing or - der and sur - prise.
Guide and friend for all who dream, nour - ished by our ground and source.



We live and move in you.

We live and move in you.

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" *by 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.

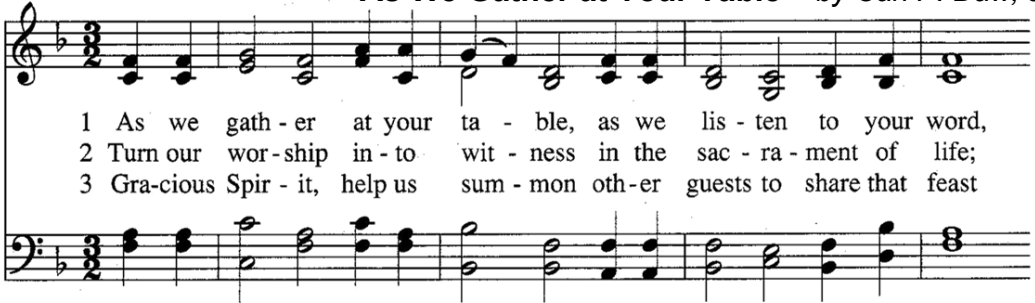


Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

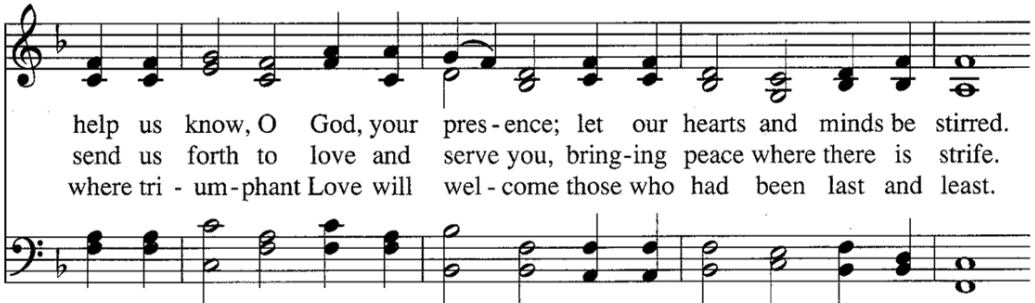


Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

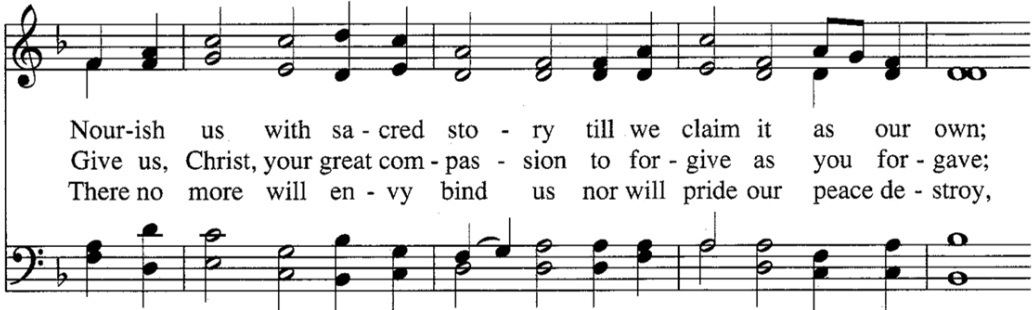
"As We Gather at Your Table" by Carl P. Daw, Jr.



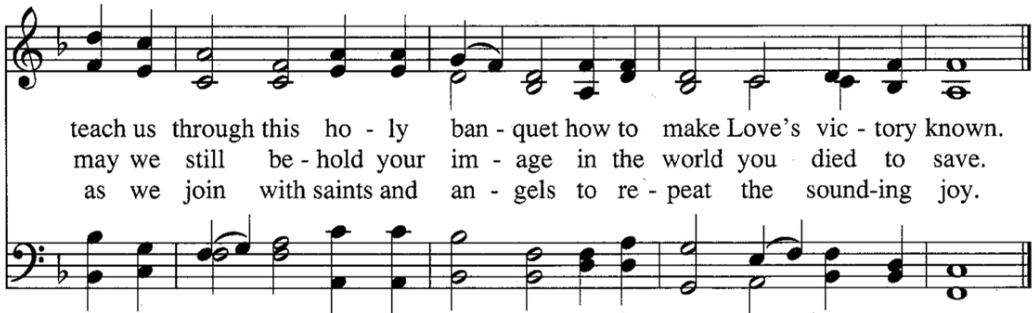
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meal Train

The church has set up a meal train for Twangie Smith's family. Twangie is in a hospital an hour from home. We've created this meal train to help take care of her family's most basic needs during this time of uncertainty and strain. Use the link found in the eNews to view available dates. If you are unable to navigate the meal train & want to contribute to a meal, please let Karen Hamingson know.

No Children's Church | *Sundays, August 3 (today) & 10*

Children's Church will not be held TODAY or next Sunday. Children's bulletins and activity boxes are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Backpack Sunday | *Today, following worship*

Help us add school supplies to more than 100 backpacks following worship today. Backpacks will be blessed and distributed to students at Hope Haven, Safe Passage, DeKalb County Housing Authority (Mason Court Apartments) and under the care of the Department of Children & Family Services.

Desserts & Games Night | *Wednesday, August 6, 6:30 – 8:30 PM*

Join us for an inter-generational evening of fun and refreshments! A variety of games will be available, but you are welcome to bring a family favorite! Look for the sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall. Bring a dessert to share, if you wish.

Pancake Sunday | *Sunday, August 10, after worship*

We will be preparing/serving pancakes during Post-Service Fellowship next Sunday, August 10. Please let Nancy Renfer know if you have an electric griddle that we can use. Pancake chefs and clean-up crew are also needed.

Fall Fest Planning | *Sunday, August 17, after worship*

In preparation for Fall Fest (Sunday, September 7), a planning meeting will be held following worship on August 17. We are hoping for another inter-generational celebration, but we need your help to make this work. Sign-up in Dutton Hall. Questions? See Sharon Hollister or Pam Jackson.

Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We will recycle and reuse these bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. Thanks!

Weekly eNews



Scan the code at the left
to see the most recent
eNews & announcements.

Church Calendar



Scan the code at the right
to see the church's
Master Calendar of events.

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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