

THE
Federated Church
OF SYCAMORE



Tell me something
good

Grounding ourselves in
the good news this Lent

Responding to God's Invitation: Prayer Stations

Lent was originally a season for new followers of Jesus to study the heart of Christian faith, the "good news of great joy for all people." These stations are multisensory and experiential ways for us to do that—to deepen our encounter with and reflections on: radical welcome, surprising joy, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice—to help us go live this good news.

During this time (~10 min), we invite you to freely visit prayer stations placed throughout the front, back, middle, and sides of the sanctuary, and even by staying in your pew.

Take your time. Consider this a mini "pilgrimage of the soul." This works best if you don't try to visit every station each week; linger where your heart feels called and receive the good news you need for today as you journey through the fullness of life.

*Virtual prayer stations indicated in **blue** can be found at [this link](#). Join us in worship to experience the additional prayer stations.*

Good News in the Wilderness: Some seasons of life feel like wilderness wandering. Yet even here, God is present. We, too, are invited to be present. *In your pew, meditate on the poem inserted in the bulletin. Notice what arises within you*

Divine Seeing: *Pause to look more deeply at the artwork inspired by today's scripture*

Prayer Candles: *Light a candle and offer a prayer for a person / place*

Tree of Life: *Write on a leaf how you'll live out the good news this week*

What Good News Have You Found Here?: *Write a word or phrase or moment that captures why you are here, or is a glimpse of the "good news" you've experienced here*

Sharing the Good News: Each week, *bring headlines, clippings, and cutouts of good news you've spotted and add them to our growing collage*

Table of Offering: *Place your donation to support our growing ministries or our special Mission Offering on the table. Place donations for our local pantries in the "blessing box"*

Spiritual Practices for Embodying Good News: Take these resources home. Rather than an "extra" thing to do, consider how you can *integrate a "good news practice" into your daily/weekly rhythm*—e.g. as part of a waking, commute, dinner, or bedtime routine. Do them by yourself, with a friend, or as a family

Building Bridges of Good News: *Use playdough to build an island and a popsicle stick to build bridges between these "communities." On the popsicle stick write one way you will build a bridge between people or communities to help strengthen our bonds*

Waters of Joy & Release: *Take a stone; drop it in the water and release what's burdening you. Pick a flower; float it in the water as a reminder of what brings you joy*

Order of Worship | February 22, 2026

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

Prelude "Thou Art Worthy" *Pauline Mills/arr. M. Hayes*

Gathering For Worship

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 "For Everyone Born" vv. 1, 3-5 (p.3)

Centering Our Hearts

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator 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 "Goodness of God" *verse 1 & chorus (p.2)*

Scripture [Luke 14:15-24; John 2:1-11; Matthew 13:31-32](#)

Sermon "The Good News is... Better than You Believe"

Sung Response "Goodness of God" *chorus (p.2)*

Prayer Stations (virtual prayer stations available [here](#))

Preparing to Live God's Love

Our Shared Life

Sending Song "Ever" (p.4)

Benediction

Postlude "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord" *Bob Hudson/arr. M. Hayes*
Thank you for joining us for worship today!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning:

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: Sheldon Turner | **Ushers:** Paula von Ende and Bev & Skip Schramer
Ushers for Sunday, March 1: Pam Wagener and Chris Borresen
All music is used with permission: CCLI Copyright: #3234671; CCLI Streaming: #22467093

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

Church Leadership for August 2025 – August 2026:

Moderator: Gip Seaver | **Assoc. Moderator:** Bill O'Hagan | **Past Moderator:** Chris Borresen. | *Should you have any questions concerning the church, how to get involved, or who to contact about something, please reach out to one of them or Pastor Eric, and they will get you the information you need or connect you to someone who can.*

† † †

“Goodness of God” by *Worship Initiative*

1. I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mer-cy nev-er fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands. From the mo-ment that I wake up un-til I lay my head Oh, I will sing of the good-ness of God.

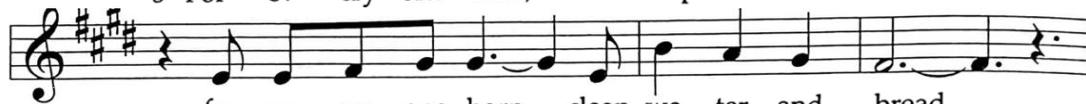
2 Chorus
'Cause Your good-ness is run-nin' af-ter, it's run-nin' af-ter me. Your good-ness is run-nin' af-ter, it's run-nin' af-ter me. With my life

"For Everyone Born" by Shirley Erena Murray/Brian Mann

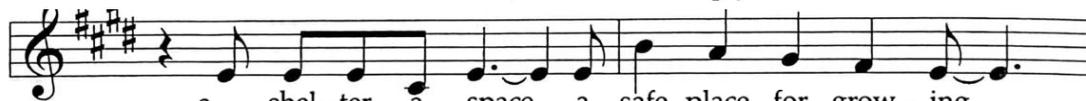
Leader or All



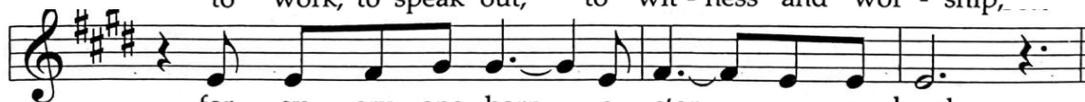
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 to li - sten and mourn, be changed and for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, ...



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus-tice and joy!

"Ever" by Heatherlyn

*Hope ev - er faith ev - er strength - en - ing you. _____
Peace ev - er joy ev - er fol - low - ing you. _____

5 Life ev - er, breath ev - er nour - ish - ing you. _____ And
Light ev - er, love ev - er ra - di - a - ting through. _____ And

9 ev' - ry where you go, may you al - ways be home. _____ And
ev - ry where you go, may you al - ways be home. _____ And

13 ev' - ry - one you meet be mes - sen - gers of peace. _____ Let your
ev' - ry - one you meet be mes - sen - gers of peace. _____ May we

17 light shine through and your heart
choose cou - ra - geous ly. _____ May we hope de -

22 ev - er be true. _____ Move in grace and grat - i - tude
fi - ant - ly. _____ May we love out - ra - geous - ly _____

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

Feminist Theology Group | Sat., Feb. 28, 10:30 AM, Youth Room

Restudying and retelling the traditional Christian stories from the perspective of women. Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month. See Ann Finseth for more info.

Celebrating & Saying Goodbye to Ms. Janis | Sunday, March 1

Join us to give thanks, bless, and say "goodbye" to Ms. Janis, whose presence helped us begin and establish ministry with and for our children.

Extravagant Welcome: Leadership Trainings | Sundays, Mar. 1, 8, & 15

- Mar. 1-Worship Leadership: for those serving as liturgist or interested in learning more
- Mar. 8-Hosting Fellowship 101: snacks, hosting, clean-up, finding things in the kitchen
- Mar. 15-Usher Training: focusing on procedures to follow in case of ICE presence

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 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 across lines of difference—race, class, culture, citizenship status, gender, sexuality, age, and ability—not merely to tolerate each other, but to build authentic relationships and true belonging. We believe that the simple but courageous work of showing up in this way is one necessary element in healing our nation and world's deep divisions.

We believe in working for peace through solidarity & justice

At Federated, conversations about racism, sexism, transphobia, poverty, immigration, hunger, and a host of other issues are commonplace—from the pulpit and around the table. With Dr. King, we believe 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.” In this spirit, *in 2025 Federated Church discerned a mission priority for the church to act for “immigrant justice,” adopting this covenant to guide us: “As a community of faith, we commit to protecting our migrant neighbors through acts of sanctuary, solidarity, and justice. We will not stand by in the face of unjust enforcement. We will act, love, and speak as our faith commands—with courage and compassion.”*

“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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