

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.*

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

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”*

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*

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*

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

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 | March 08, 2026

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

Prelude

"I Exalt Thee"

Pete Sanchez/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 "Sing a New World into Being" vv. 1, 2, 4 (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 Preparation "We'll Build a World" vv. 1-2 (p.4)

Scripture

[Mark 6:32-44; Ephesians 3:20-21](#)

Sermon "The Good News is... The Work of Abundance in a World of Scarcity"

Musical Meditation

Prayer Stations (virtual stations can be found at [this link](#))

Our Shared Life

Preparing to Live God's Love

Sending Song "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" vv. 1, 3, 4 (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

"We Shall Overcome"

U.S. Traditional

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 | **Liturgist:** Jane Whitaker

Ushers: Ruth Olle and Gip Seaver

Ushers for Sunday, March 15: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

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.

† † †

CALENDAR: AT A GLANCE

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

- Today—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

UUA Warming Center | Today, 5 PM to 9 PM

Federated Church has volunteered to serve dinner at the Warming Center at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb. *See Ann Finseth for more info.*

Piano Removal |

The organ and piano in the Chapel, the grand piano in Dutton Hall, and an electric piano will be removed from the church. If anyone is interested in any of these items, please notify the Moderator Team by March 15, and we will work with you regarding removal.

Ladies' Night Out | Tues., Mar. 24, 6 PM, Tom & Jerry's, 265 W Peace Rd., Syc.

All women are invited to join us at Tom & Jerry's Restaurant, at their new temporary location (the former Eggsclusive). Sign up in Dutton Hall on in this week's eNews.

Weekly eNews



Scan the code at the left to see the most recent eNews & join our email list.

Church Calendar



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

“Sing a New World into Being” *by Mary Louise Bringle*



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent year - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a___ church where all who wor - ship find their_ lives and loves be - long.
where the___ lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all___ peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all___ hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing___ balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

“We’ll Build a World” by David Lohman

1. We are diff - rent, you and I, yet to -
2. As we la - bor toward that day, don't let
3. In this var - ied u - ni - verse all ex -

geth - er, fates en - twine. Now we gath - er in this
diff - rence fall a - way. Your u - nique - ness I will
ist - ence so di - verse. Filled with won - der, life so

space, joined in spir - it, filled with grace; bring your
see, and the same thing, see in me. Thus we're
queer, steeped in mys - t'ry, oft un - clear. Yet to -

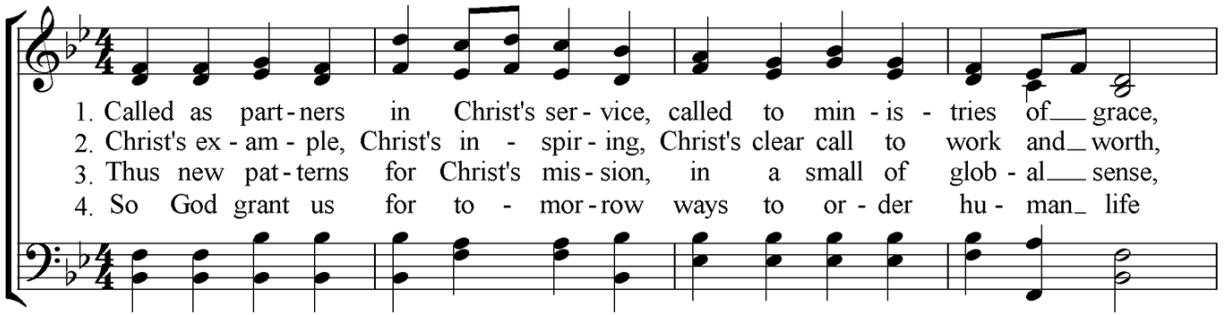
full - ness, I'll bring mine, and to - geth - er we will
val - ued, known and named, hon - ored, cher - ished, loved and
geth - er, hand in hand, we'll cre - ate that Prom - ised

REFRAIN

shine. To - geth - er, we'll build a world where there's
claimed. Land.
room for all to be; a world where we'll live our lives lib - er -
at - ed, strong, and free! This glo - ri - ous fu - ture

build it now with me.

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” by June Parker Huber



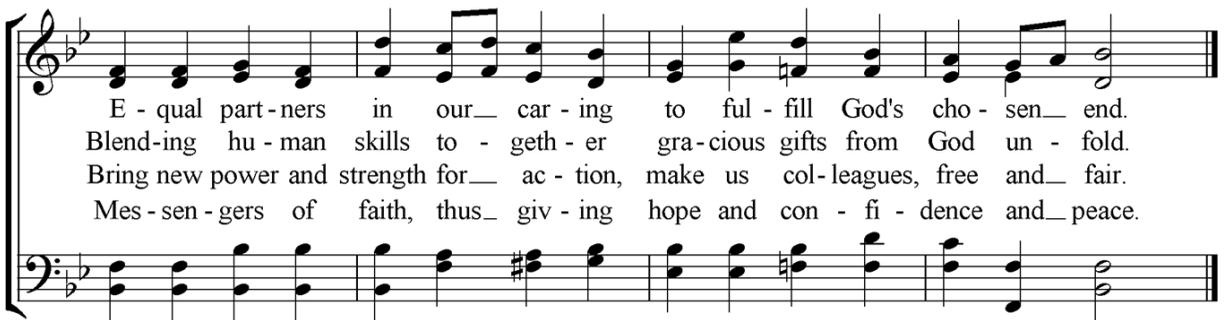
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of__ grace,
2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and__ worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small of glob-al__ sense,
4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man__ life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to__ trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er__ fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on__ earth.
Help us bear each oth-er's__ bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or__ fence.
That sur-round each per-son's. sor-row with a calm that con-quests. strife.



May we learn the art of__ shar-ing, side by side and friend with__ friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er,__ poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and__ old,
Words of com-fort, words of__ vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with__ care,
Make us part-ners in our__ liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our__ car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen__ end.
Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
Bring new power and strength for__ ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and__ fair.
Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus__ giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and__ peace.

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

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

Director of Children’s Ministries: Bill O’Hagan

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough

Phone: (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** Preschool@fedsycamore.org

Address: 612 W. State Street, Sycamore, IL 60178