

The Federated Church

United Church of Christ + Unitarian Universalist Association



ADVENT I: HOPE

November 28, 2021 | 10:00am

help me
make
a space for you

emptying myself
to create
a place for you

spreading the straw
on the floor
of my soul

in joyful
expectation
of your coming.

“a clearing,”
by christine rodgers

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Passing the Peace

Call to Worship & Lighting of Advent Candles

As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer;
As the cool air chills our bones and our world grows ever more weary,
We gather in the light of Emmanu-el, the God who is with us.

And yet, there is not peace on earth.

So, we gather to be strengthened with the fire of Hope,

As we await the coming of God's reign of Love.

the candle of HOPE is lit

In a world that places hope in wealth and power, comfort and consumerism,
We prepare our hearts to receive God's absurd and unexpected Hope:
**A vulnerable baby, born to a poor, unwed, indigenous girl,
Laid in an animal's feeding trough, because no one made room for them;
The fruit of Mary's womb, born in the shadows of a colonizing empire,
Forced to flee to Egypt as a refugee.**

Come, Advent People longing for new life,
Let us watch with pregnant expectation
For God's Hope to be born among us again.

We gather to make room in our hearts,

So that we have the courage to make room in our world

To house the Holy Presence of God;

Mara-natha—"Come, Lord Jesus, come."

Gathering Hymn #116 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vv. 1-2, 6-7 (p. 7)

Advent Prayer of Repentance: Hope

"I stretch out my hand to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land" ~ Psalm 143:6

"Peace and wholeness to the far and the near; I will heal them." ~ Isaiah 57:19

What is it that your soul thirsts for in this season?

What would it look like for you to "light a candle of Hope" in those places shadowed by hopelessness in your life, your neighbor's life, or in our world?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art 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.

Advent Promise

Friends, hear the Good News: Even as we wait for the Coming One with
longing and expectation, the Hope of the World is already with us.
So, let us light candles to shine in every darkness.
Wherever despair keeps watch, we will light candles of Hope.

Song of Preparation "If In Your Heart" (p. 6)

Scripture [Jeremiah 33:14-16 & Matthew 2:1-18](#)

Sermon "*Adventus: God's Arrival Among Us*"

Musical Meditation

Our Shared Life & Offering

Announcements

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 "Now Bless the God of Israel" (p. 8)

Benediction *Go in the Hope of Emmanu-el: God-With-Us*

Postlude

WORSHIP NOTES

Those serving us this morning are:

Pastor: Rev. Eric J. Ogi | **Ministers:** All of us! | **Director of Music:** Gary Mattin

Liturgist: Jean Evans | **Ushers:** *Paula von Ende and Skip & Beverly Schramer*

*Those scheduled to usher next Sunday, **December 5th**, are: Dave Wood, Pam Wagener, Chris Borresen, and Bev Whildin*

All music is used with permission: *CCLI License #3234671*

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

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+ people to be, to belong, to lead, to question, and to grow in faith.

If In Your Heart



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and



ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of



ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.

Refrain




Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!




- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer
our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
Love stir with-in the womb of night,
and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
(<i>Refrain</i>)</p> | <p>7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind
all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
(<i>Refrain</i>)</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|


Now Bless the God of Israel



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and power,
2 Re - mem-ber-ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues us from fear,
3 In ten - der mer-cy, God will send the day - spring from on high,



who rais - es from the roy - al house de - liv - erance in this hour.
that we might serve in hol - i - ness and peace from year to year;
our ris - ing sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.



Through ho - ly proph-ets God has sworn to free us from a - larm,
And you, my child, shall go be - fore to preach, to proph-e - sy,
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.



to save us from the heav-y hand of all who wish us harm.
that all may know the ten - der love, the grace of God most high.
Sing prais-es to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Advent Opportunities

All are welcome, including those who've only joined us online!

Christmas Toy Drive

Federated Church is partnering with The Salvation Army in DeKalb County to collect toys for children 0-18. These toys will be given out by The Salvation Army at their annual Christmas children's gift distribution in mid-December. **Toys may be dropped off at The Federated Church from November 14 to December 8 at the main entrances.** *Do not wrap the gifts.*

The drive is sponsored by the Board of Deacons. If you have any questions, please contact Paula von Ende at pvonend@yahoo.com.

Annual Federated Preschool Cookie & Candy Sale Fundraiser

Friday, Dec. 10th, 10:30am - 3pm

The Federated Preschool is gearing up for their Annual Cookie and Candy Sale! If you're interested in making homemade cookies or candies to donate to the sale, *bring them to the preschool on Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 9th during regular school hours or first thing on Friday, December 10th!*

For more information, contact Preschool Director, Bobbi Clough, at 815-764-9473



Make Room

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

Sunday, Dec. 5th

AFTER WORSHIP

Join us as we journey to Bethlehem for a conversation with Pastor Eric's friend, Usama, a Palestinian Christian who lives just a few houses from where Jesus was born! Our conversation with Usama will be followed by an intergenerational Advent craft workshop you don't wanna miss! Join us for some Advent reflection and holiday fun!



Make Room

CHRISTMAS IN A REFUGEE CAMP

Sunday, Dec. 12th

AFTER WORSHIP

Remembering that the Holy Family were forced to become refugees shortly after Jesus' birth, representatives from Exodus World Service, a refugee resettlement agency, will lead us through an immersive experience to better understand what this journey is like.

This is geared toward both youth and adults; all are welcome and encouraged to participate as we hear experience the Christmas story in new and profound ways!

“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

Federated Church Preschool, Director Bobbi Clough
Phone: (815) 764-9473 || **Email:** Preschool@fedsycamore.org

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