

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 | July 14, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Prelude

“All Is Well”

M. Smith/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 “You Walk Along Our Shoreline” (p. 3)

Prayers of the People

Centering Moment

This is your time to center more deeply into the presence of God/Love. We invite you to take a slow, deep breath, read the poem below, and then: ponder the Meditation Question(s); offer a silent prayer; or simply let the music wash over you.

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” ~ Jesus, John 13:34

“Jesus came to show us how to be human much more than how to be spiritual... We need to look at Jesus until we can look out at the world with his kind of eyes.” ~ Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe*”

“I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

~ attributed to Mahatma Gandhi

Meditation Question

- ◆ How does “looking at/to” Jesus help you become more fully human? How has the way Jesus lived shaped how you live?

Silent Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in 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.

Sung Response

“Take, O Take Me as I Am” (p. 2)

Scripture

[Mark 1:14-18; 8:27-37](#)

Sermon

“Jesus is the Answer Question”

Sung Response “Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us” (p. 4)

Our Shared Life & Offering

Offering Opportunities

Offertory

“The Gift of Love”

*English Melody
Hopson/M. Kim*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here ^{low}.

Praise God for all that Love ¹ done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Hymn “Will You Come and Follow Me” (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

“Soon and Very Soon”

Andrae Crouch/arr. M. Kim

Thank you for joining us for worship!

† † †

WORSHIP NOTES

Serving us this morning are:

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

Children’s Church Coordinator: Janis Schnurr-Trebe | **Liturgist:** Pam Kitterman

Ushers: Gip Seaver, Ruth Olle, and Skip Schramer

Ushers for July 21: Nate & Pam Kitterman, Linda Mason, and Allison Stahl

All music this morning is used with permission: CCLI License #3234671

“Take O Take Me as I Am”

John L. Bell

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I will
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

"You Walk along Our Shoreline"

Sylvia G. Dunstan

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And
We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We
We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You

if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."
Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

“Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us”

Daniel Charles Damon



1 Je - sus, you have tru - ly called us. Still, to - day, we hear your
2 Je - sus, save us from poor choic - es. Ha - tred, run - ning like a
3 Je - sus, save us from our weak - ness, from de - ceit and from de -



voice. Lead us on - ward, lead us up - ward, till all peo - ple can re -
thread through the fab - ric of our his - t'ry, mars our faith and leaves us
spair. Move us on to new cre - a - tion in a world that's free and

Refrain



joice.
dead. Meet us in our time of tri - al, fill us with your Spir - it's
fair.



power. As we stand be - fore op - pres - sion, give us cour - age for this hour.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Love Offering | Federated Preschool

As of this past school year, The Federated Preschool is now a half-day preschool *and* a full-time year-round daycare center. This has required many changes. Through church and community support, the Preschool has added: a security doorbell to the main entry way, another classroom, new books and toys, kid-sized tables and chairs in Dutton Hall, a large freezer and extra shelving in the kitchen, and air conditioning in the classrooms. Bids are being sought for our next big project, playground maintenance: adding better drainage (so it's not a pond when it rains!) and replacing the rubber mulch. Love Offering donations along with community grants will make this project possible (it'll cost at least several thousand dollars)!

Donations in any amount are welcome and can be placed in the collection plate on Sunday, mailed to the church at The Federated Church, 612 W. State St., Sycamore, IL 60178 (be sure to write "Federated Preschool" on the memo line), or given online at <https://bit.ly/GiveFCS>.

“Will You Come and Follow Me?”

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.

Weekly eNews

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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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