

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 | February 16, 2025, 10:00 am
All music can be found at the back of the bulletin.

Prelude “Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision” Robert Cull/arr. M. Hayes

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” (p.3)

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

*Migratory God**

Silent Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

**Our: Father / Mother / Sister / Brother / Lover / Ground of All Being /
Amazing One / Protector / Caretaker / Maker of the Way /
One Who Holds the Universe Together / Bhagvan / HaShem**

In the skies,

Your name be honored!

Your kingdom come!

Your will be done—as in heaven, make it so on earth!

Give us the bread that we need for today.

Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive those indebted to us.

Do not lead us into a time of testing, but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response “Feed Us, Lord” vv. 1 & 2 (p.4)

Scripture [Matthew 6:9-11; Mark 6:32-44](#)

Sermon “Give Us the Bread that We Need for Today”

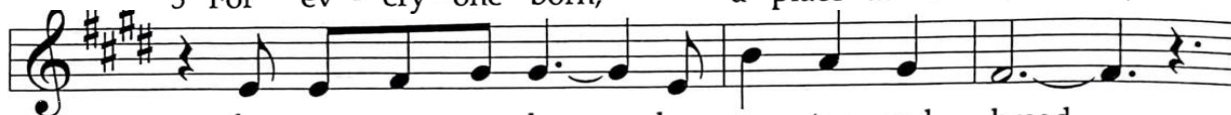
Sung Response “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” (p.5)

"For Everyone Born" Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann

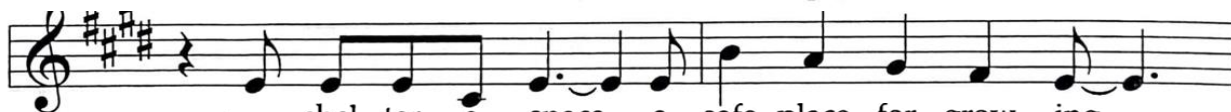
□ Leader or All



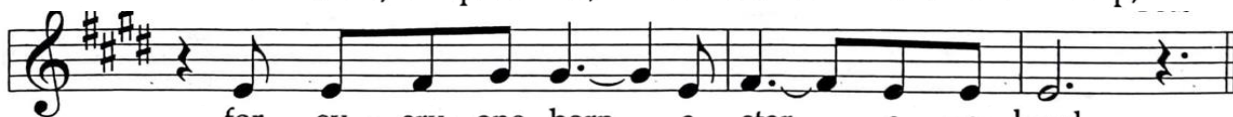
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
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,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
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 wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
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,

Refrain on Page 4

Refrain

B *All* E E/G# A2 Bsus B

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

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

C#m C#m/B A2

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

($\hat{\cdot}$) *Fine*

jus-tice and joy!

"Feed Us, Lord" Greg Sheer

1 Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord. In the bro - ken bread,
 2 Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord. On this thirst - y ground,
 3 Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord, with the bread and wine
 4 Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nour-ished here by Christ,

be re - vealed a - gain. Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.
 may your love flow down. Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.
 of the ris - en Christ. Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.
 giv - en strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” *Sylvia G Dunstan*



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er; Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here, in peace, we have been led.

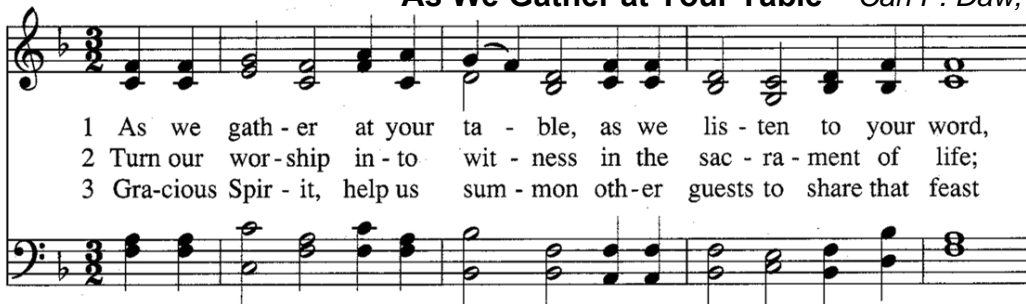


You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.

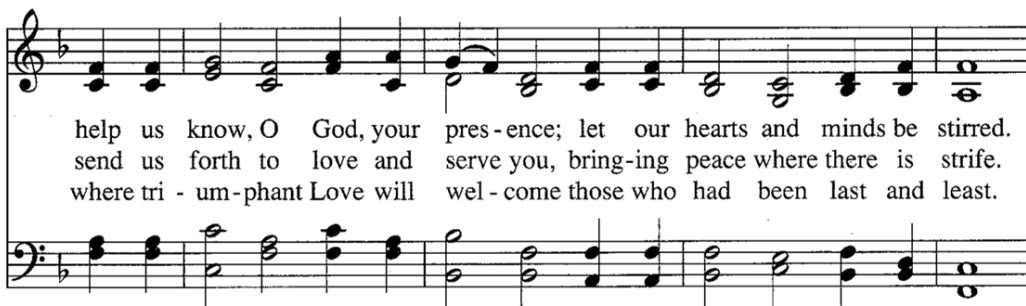


Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

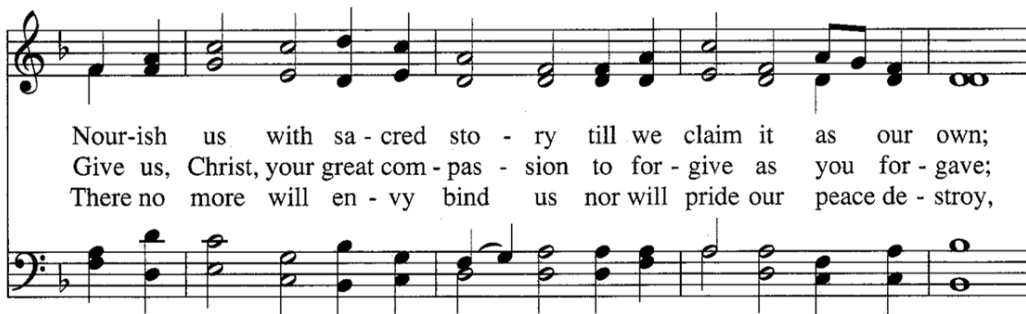
"As We Gather at Your Table" Carl P. Daw, Jr.



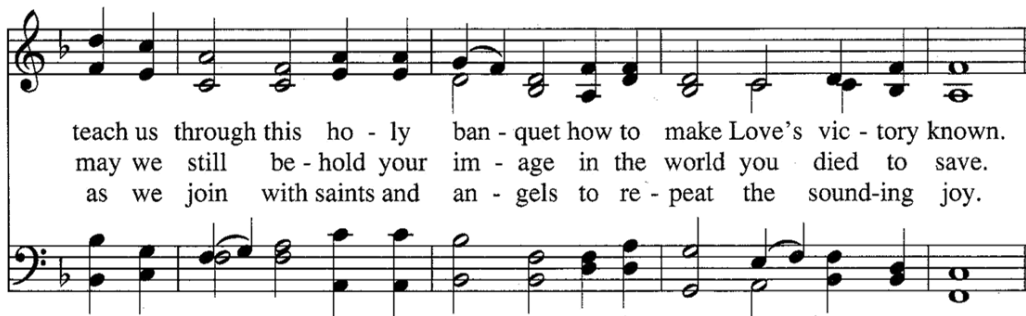
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



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

February Love Offering | *Veterans of the Cross (2024*)*

The Veterans of the Cross Fund is an annual United Church of Christ offering that expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, and funds to meet emergency needs (*Our 2024 donation to The Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross was postponed due to our Hurricane Relief collection in late 2024.) Now you have an opportunity to donate to the Veterans of the Cross, UCC wider mission in February. All donations are welcome. Please indicate Veterans of the Cross on your check or envelope. *Love offering envelopes are available on the table as you enter the church.*

March in Solidarity with Migrants | *Today, 1:30 PM, NIU Parking Garage*

We are hoping to turn out hundreds of people throughout the county, including many churches, for this march. A few notes if you plan to attend:

- Remain peaceful and follow laws, including traffic lights. The organizers want us to remember that this is a nonviolent event.
- Signs and noise-makers welcome!
- Check the weather and dress accordingly; we may be outside for a bit.
- Wear comfortable shoes; this is a march, and will cover a little under 1 mile (ending at Peace Corner--corner of Lincoln Hwy & First St.)
- *All ages* are welcome and encouraged to participate! (Even Eliyas will be there!)

For those interested during Fellowship Hour today, we will have materials to make signs in support of our immigrant, refugee, and undocumented neighbors.

Intro to the Bible | *Tuesday, February 18, 6-7:30 PM, Settle Room*

Prepare for class on by reading chapter 4 and reflecting on the question prompts.

Ladies' Night Out | *Tues., Feb. 25, 6PM, Crooked Horn Bar & Grill, Sycamore*

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, February 25, at 6:00 PM, for our first Ladies' Night Out of 2025! We will meet at Crooked Horn Bar & Grill, 1470 S. Peace Rd., Sycamore. Sign up in Dutton Hall or through the link in the eNews.

All-Church Chili Potluck & Board Games | *Saturday, March 1, 4:30-8:30 PM*

We hope you can join us on Saturday, March 1, for a Chili Potluck and Board Games. We ask those who can to bring a dish to share (chili, chili toppings (shredded cheese, diced onions, sour cream, oyster crackers, etc.), cut-up vegetables, or dessert). If you have a favorite board game, bring that along, too! Sign-up in Dutton Hall!

Recycle/Reuse Bulletin Covers

We recycle and reuse the bulletin covers. Please place them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary on your way out. You are welcome to keep the worship order with music & announcements. Thanks!

Weekly eNews

Scan this QR code with your phone camera to see the most recent eNews with all these announcements and more! Subscribe tab is at the top.



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*



Follow us on

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