

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 15, 2026

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

Prelude

“Lamb of God”

Twila Paris/arr. L. Larson

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 “Holy Is the Refugee” vv. (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 “These Treasured Children” vv. 1-2, 4 (p.4)

Scripture

[Matthew 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 24:17-22](#)

Sermon

“The Good News is... Protection and Care for the Vulnerable”

Musical Meditation

Prayer Stations

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

Our Shared Life

Preparing to Live God’s Love

Sending Song “See the Precious Children” vv.1, 3-5 (p.5)

Benediction

Postlude

“The Wonderful Cross”

Lowell Mason/arr. L. Larson

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:** Sharon McKee

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

Ushers for Sunday, March 22: Paula von Ende, and Bev & Skip Schramer

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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 | *Today, after worship*

Usher Training: focusing on procedures to follow in case of ICE presence

Post-Service Listening Session | *Sun. Mar. 22, after worship*

Focus: Evaluating our ministry with families with young children.

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

All women are invited. Sign up in Dutton Hall on in this week's eNews.

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

Meeting the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month, 10:30-to noon, Feminist Theology next meets on Saturday, March 28. Please use door #3S to enter at the Youth room.

Meals on Wheels | *Throughout April*

Sign up in Dutton Hall to deliver Meals on Wheels for the Sycamore East & West Routes during April. Questions? See Sharon Hollister.

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship | *Thurs. Apr. 2, 5:30 PM*

Tenebrae service preceded by a light Middle Eastern meal. Help us with our meal planning by letting us know you can attend on the sign-up sheet in Dutton Hall.

Weekly eNews

Church Calendar



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

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



“Holy Is the Refugee” by *Hanna C. Brown*



1. Ho - ly is the ref - u - gee, ho - ly is the guest,
2. Ho - ly are the ques - tion - ing, ho - ly are the queer,
3. Ho - ly are the dis - pos - sessed, ho - ly are the spurned,
4. Ho - ly is the en - e - my, ho - ly is the friend,



ho - ly, those who wan - der far from home.
ho - ly, those who chal - lenge, dance, and dare.
ho - ly are the pro - filed and pa - trolled.
ho - ly, ev - 'ry spir - it as it flames;



Ho - ly are the bod - ies seek - ing safe - ty, warmth and
Ho - ly are the bod - ies choos - ing joy in - stead of
Ho - ly are the bod - ies harmed by ha - tred taught and
Ho - ly is each bod - y, held by love un - til the



1.
rest; be - lov - ed, find a wel - come as you roam.
fear; be -
learned, be -
end, be -



2.-4.
lov - ed, claim a free - dom all can share,
lov - ed, now be shield - ed and con - soled,
lov - ed, may we know what God pro - claims,



Sing - ing, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God who



made us in their like - ness; ho - ly ev - 'ry bod -



y, breath, and soul.

"These Treasured Children"



1 These treasured children present now are bound to
2 Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our
3 We long to trust as children do and so en-
4 Come, Holy Spirit, help us be a nurtur-
5 Then, tender God, each child embrace; God give them



us by sacred vow: with love, we make a
children know it well within their souls and
trust our days to you; in their young lives we
ing community; empower us to
blessings, grant them grace. Surprise them, God, with



heart-felt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.
minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.
clearly see a lesson in humility.
re-a-lize God's kingdom through our children's eyes.
wonders still, and gently guide them by your love

“See the Precious Children” by Anna Strickland



See the pre-cious chil - dren seat - ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi - dowed wo - men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice and our greed



Called the great - est in the king - dom, held so gent - ly and a - dored They
Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan - gers for the pow - er - less and prone They
Sleep - ing un - der star - ry heav - ens, dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They
Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net cry - ing out for some re - lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home - land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our



weak - ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
liv - ing we're held by love as we care for ev - ery being

Mission Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing Mission Offering to be received March 15 & 22

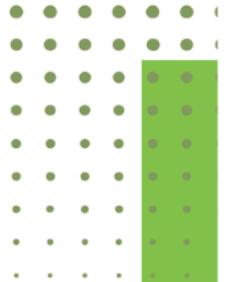
YWCA of Palestine – Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center

What better way to support a more sustainable and hopeful future than to support and educate future generations? The YWCA of Palestine, a United Church of Christ partner through Global Ministries and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing has engaged local Palestinian communities since 1893.



Today, it offers programs of economic empowerment, women’s rights, youth leadership, and children’s education. An example of the latter is the YWCA’s nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps, schools the YWCA has run for decades. In addition to regular classes, the YWCA offers skill-based camps such as photography and sports, as well as other extra-curricular activities at its schools.

In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, roughly one-fourth of the 900,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations live in 19 refugee camps. The YWCA kindergarten in the Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah is a sign of hope for a community that has endured over 75 years of displacement.



Mission Offering

YWCA of Palestine – Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center (Continued)

The school and connected community center connect the needs of over 80 children and their families within the camp. In a place that is often subjected to raids and night-time patrols by the Israeli military, children are not immune from the trauma the residents of the camp experience. As a result, the YWCA has added awareness and counseling sessions to regular classes to help improve the psychological well-being of the children there.

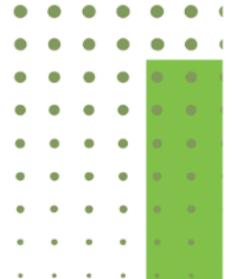
The opportunities that the YWCA affords the community through the kindergarten benefit the children, their families, and the teachers as well, providing a safe space for play and employing techniques to cope with the stress of daily life living in sub-par circumstances of a refugee camp under military occupation.

The pride the children have when they dress up for their graduation ceremony is palpable. They enjoy the celebration of their

accomplishment, and anticipate their next stages of education and life better able and prepared for the challenges they will face.



Place your offering in the One Great Hour of Sharing envelope located at the Table of Offering Prayer Station or scan the QR code



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*



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