

# FEDERATED CHURCH



Sunday, March 29, 2020  
Fifth Sunday in Lent



## Mission Statement:

*We are called to nurture a growing relationship with God  
by following the example of Jesus Christ.*

## Welcome to Worship at Federated!

We are called **Federated** because on July 2, 1914, Columbus' Congregational (now the United Church of Christ) and Presbyterian churches joined to serve as one congregation.

Prayer requests can be shared on **Prayers Cards** in the pew pockets or **Prayer Chain** requests to the Church Office (402) 564-2812 to call the Order of St. Andrew. The Prayer Chain is strictly confidential.

If you missed worship last week, visit [www.federatedcolumbus.org](http://www.federatedcolumbus.org) for videos of worship and bulletins, and on TV: Spectrum Channel 1304 (HD) Mondays 12noon, Saturdays 8pm and Sundays 8pm.

In case of an emergency, the pastor's cell phone number is: Edward (402) 302-2812.

Governing Council 2020 - Federated Church Elders			Federated Church Clergy and Staff	
Marcia Grant, President (402-276-1428 ) Tim Warren, Vice President Louise Moran, Secretary			Rev. Edward Yang, Ph.D. Acting Head of Staff & Associate Pastor for CYF <a href="mailto:edward@federatedcolumbus.org">edward@federatedcolumbus.org</a>	Jim Rains Office Manager <a href="mailto:jrains@federatedcolumbus.org">jrains@federatedcolumbus.org</a>
<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	Brenda Sand Temp. Christian Education Director <a href="mailto:brenda@federatedcolumbus.org">brenda@federatedcolumbus.org</a>	Chrissy Ford Bookkeeper & Publications Coord. <a href="mailto:cford@federatedcolumbus.org">cford@federatedcolumbus.org</a>
Linda Wheatley	Gene Hahn	John McClure		
Doug Williams	Judy Temme	Renee Norris		
Steve McClure	Marv Zoucha	Alison Wagner	Lee Augustin, Organist	Bob Arp, Chancel Choir Director
Financial Administrators:	Donna Augspurger Terry Millard	Robin Lehr Terry Norris	Stuart Gausman Bell Choir Director	Lay Pastor Antonio Garcia El Buen Pastor Fellowship

## JOYS & CONCERNS

- ♦ If you have any joys or concerns, please share with the congregation by informing the office staff/pastor.
- ♦ Please keep Eileen Rosekrans in your thoughts and prayers as she is now at Brookestone.
- ♦ Please pray for Ada Marsh, who is recuperating at home following a stroke and rehabilitation at Bryan LGH East and Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.
- ♦ Please pray for Dr. Jeff Zoucha, Denver Health Internal Medicine, who is in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as all health professionals and caregivers as they valiantly fight this plague.

## THIS WEEK AT FEDERATED CHURCH

Most in-person events have been cancelled due to the current pandemic situation and the 10 persons per gathering limit restriction.

**Sunday, March 29**

**Monday, March 30**

**Tuesday, March 31**

1:00pm Online Lectionary Bible Study  
zoom.us/j/674120363

**Wednesday, April 1**

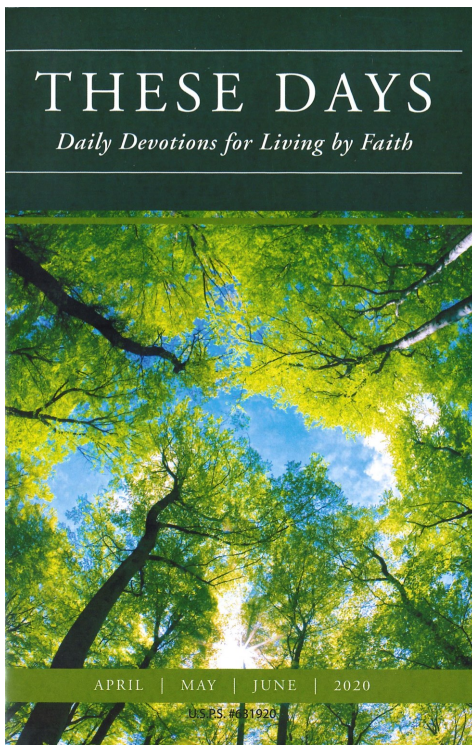
10:00am Staff Meeting  
11:00am Worship Planning Meeting  
4:30pm Online Lectionary Bible Study  
zoom.us/j/648299543

**Thursday, April 2**

**Friday, April 3**

**Saturday, April 4**

**Sunday, April 5**



**New issue of THESE DAYS daily devotions (for April - June, 2020) are now available. Please let the church office know if you would like one mailed or dropped off to you.**

**Walk to Jerusalem** (through Easter Sunday)  
Federated Church is once again participating in this event for 2020. Send in your minutes/miles to the church office each Monday for the previous week. Email Jim or Chrissy at [fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org](mailto:fcstaff@federatedcolumbus.org) or call them at **402-564-2812**.

### **Meals on Wheels**

Thank you to the volunteers that delivered March 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>! Your willing responses to serve are appreciated! At this time volunteers delivery is suspended due to the "virus". The hospital is using their employees as a way to further control coming in and out of the hospital as well as reducing risk to the volunteers. Our next date was to have been May 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Watch for further notice as it is received from the hospital.

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

Hymns, Songs, Prayers, and liturgies in **Bold** are for the participation of the **Congregation**

## GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

FEASTING ON THE WORD

One: O mortal, can these bones live?

**All: Only the Lord God knows.**

One: O people, hope in the Lord.

**All: With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.**

One: Let us worship God!

### OPENING HYMN NO. 316

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God (verses 1-4)*

Lee Augustin, Accompanist

Kathy Leischner and Wayne McCormick, Cantors

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin.

### MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness.

**All: And if the Holy Spirit dwells in us, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to our mortal bodies.**

One: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Brenda Sand, CE Director

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marcia Grant, Liturgist

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37 : 1 - 14

PEW BIBLE OLD TESTAMENT PAGE 806

ROMANS 8 : 6 - 11

PEW BIBLE NEW TESTAMENT PAGES 157-158

One: God's living word, for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### SERMON

Edward Yang, Pastor

\* As you are able in body or in spirit, please rise.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – *by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org***

One: We believe in a wilderness God—

**All: Who breathed life into dust, turned seeds into flowers,  
and flooded the sky with stars.**

One: We believe in a wilderness God—

**All: Who went hungry in the desert, walked barefoot on the water,  
and taught from the mountainside.**

One: We believe in a wilderness God—

**All: Whose love could be described as nothing short of wild.**

One: So with confidence and hope, we long to follow our wilderness God  
who walks with people on their darkest nights,

**All: Who sings hope into places of grief, isolation, and suffering,  
and who exists in the form of untamed joy, wildfire love, and impossible hope.  
Step by step, may it be so. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

### **LENTEN DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God throughout these forty days. Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN NO. 302**

*Lord of the Dance (verses 1-3)*

### **BENEDICTION**

Special thanks to Tim Rathje for recording the service and Parker Grant for running PowerPoint.

March 29  
- April 4  
2020

# Devotions for Lent

## WEEK 5

Sunday | JOHN 3:16-18

God does not condemn us. Despite our mistakes and missteps, what we have done and what we have left undone, God does not call us out publicly, judge us harshly or sentence us to lifelong punishment. In fact, God so loves us that Jesus is sent to save the world. During this season of Lent, we follow the Son to the cross and grave, to the tomb and back to Galilee, learning all the way about repentance and forgiveness, grace and transformation.

Imagine if those of us reconciled to God through Christ practiced even a modicum of the mercy extended to us? What would it look like for us to let go of judgment and focus instead on extending grace? Consider the impact disciples would make if we sought to be just and not vindictive. What divine inbreaking might happen if we yearned for restoration rather than retribution or revenge?

As Richard Lischer notes in his book, "The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence," forgiveness always costs someone something. It cost God the Son. As we seek to follow Jesus more closely this Lent, we too are called to extend forgiveness, even though it will inevitably cost us something — our pride, perhaps. Or our need to be right or our desire to see someone get what we think they deserve rather than what our faith calls us to hope for them.

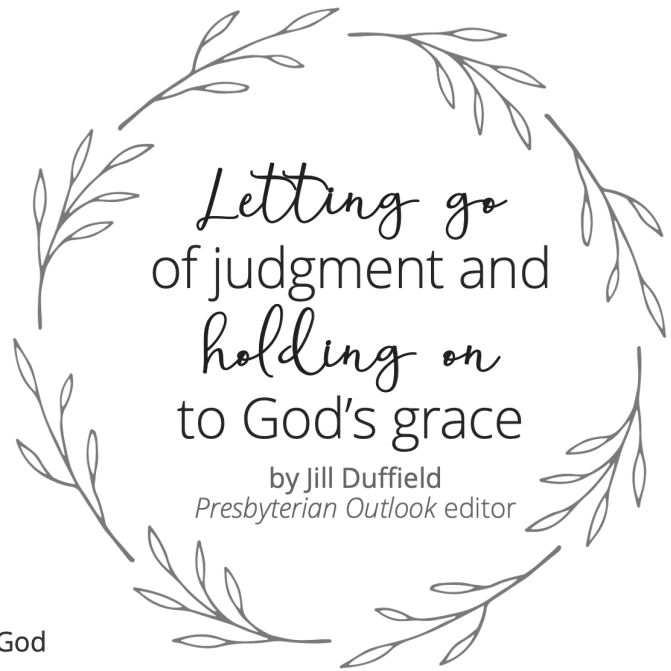
If God does not condemn us, how do we emulate the One we worship, and stop condemning others and instead point them to the saving love of Jesus Christ?

*Grace, Alpha and Omega, is difficult for us to stomach. We yearn not so much for universal mercy, but for punishment for others. Instead of celebrating radical transformation, we hold grudges and refuse to believe change is possible. Despite our pettiness and our sin, you refuse to condemn us. You come to save us. May the joyous recognition of such divine mercy shape us into a merciful people. Amen.*

Monday | LUKE 6:37-38

What are you struggling to forgive today — in yourself or in others? Why are you holding on to regret or grievances rather than accepting God's forgiveness and opening yourself, your relationships, your communities, to the loving transformation that accompanies grace and mercy? Is there someone you need to contact to either extend or ask for forgiveness? Do it.

*Forgiving God, we struggle with patterning our lives after your character. You forgive the most egregious of actions done even to your Son. We refuse to let go of minor affronts and picayune mistakes. We thank you for showing us mercy. We accept your forgiveness, we commit to repentance, we will extend your grace to the world you so love. Amen.*





## Tuesday | MATTHEW 9:13

Jesus tells us to go and learn what it means that he desires mercy and not sacrifice. What does this mean? In one sentence write down what you think Jesus wants us to learn from this phrase. Now, how do you practice our Savior's admonishment? How can you extend mercy, rather than requiring sacrifices?

*Lord Christ, we live in the hope that you came not for the righteous but to save sinners. We know that we are not righteous and are desperately in need of your grace. There is nothing we could do that would be enough to earn your favor or forgiveness. Thanks be to God, you desire mercy and not sacrifice. Amen.*

## Wednesday | JAMES 4:12

The Book of James refuses to be theoretical about our faith, always calling us back to how our faith should shape our actions and interactions. Notice today how and who and what you judge. Make note of your assumptions and attempt to suspend them. Be open to meeting each person as the beloved child of God they are.

*God, you alone are the judge of people and places, circumstances and behaviors. Yet, we constantly assess and render judgment. Help us to pay attention to how we rate, evaluate and respond to what we encounter. Send your Spirit to give us the eyes to see the world through the lens of faith. Amen.*

## Thursday | ROMANS 8:1-2

Jesus sets us free from sin and death. Truly, nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing. Sit with this astonishing truth for a few minutes. We are not destined to languish in the consequences of sin. In this very moment, in every moment, you are united to God. Remember this truth today.

*Liberating God, you set us free to live without fear and in bold faith. Let nothing keep us from lavish generosity, obvious praise, over-the-top joy. May our gregarious living garner the attention of those around us so that we can offer our testimony and tell of your wondrous deeds of power. May our audacious hope be contagious and draw others to you. Amen.*

## Friday | ROMANS 3:21-25a

There is no distinction among us because all of us are sinners. Think about all the categories we put people in, all the distinctions we think so important. Now, imagine all those distinctions erased and everyone utterly equal before God. How does this change your perception of yourself and others?

*We put people in categories, Lord of All, and then we rank them, treat them differently, act as if some are better or more valuable than others. We forget we all fall short of your glory and need your grace. When we remember, we are humbled and chastened. Thankfully, you give us countless opportunities to repent and do better. Amen.*

## Saturday | 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-10

More than even your vocation, your holy calling entails the core value or values you want to live in faithfulness and glory to God. It bears witness to Jesus Christ and reflects your God-created uniqueness. Write down your moral framework, that which shapes your decisions and remains evident and consistent in your life. Does it reflect and reveal Jesus?

*Lord, you enlist us to do your work in the world, to reveal your will and reflect your character. You set us apart for divine purposes, not because we are worthy, but because you are good. Shape us in ways that show the world who you are, whose we are and how you want us to live together. Amen.*