

# WELCOME!

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** “God Shall Bless Us” -Wagner

## BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From beaches and meadows, crowded streets, and quiet lanes through the woods,

**People: We gather for worship, and focus our hearts and minds in this time of worship.**

Leader: As the season begins to turn, we gather in this sacred space, grateful for and mindful of God's constant, comforting presence.

**People: So we turn now toward the Source of Love, and open our hearts and minds to God's grace and guidance.**

**All: Let us worship now together the Holiest Host, the Fountain of Life, and Strength of our Souls.**

\***HYMN** (insert) “Through the Love of God, Our Savior” -Ar Hyd y Nos

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**God of our rejoicing, you lift our gaze and raise our attention to see farther. As we seek to follow your standard, keep us from distractions, and use this time of worship to encourage us, enlighten us, and embolden us to claim ourselves and this world as your beloved. In Christ's gracious spirit we pray; amen.**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end; amen, amen.*

**MOMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSION** -Dianne Durawa and Carol Christensen

EFAC (Education For All Children)

Ghana Mission

Haiti Peace Quilts

**LITANY FOR GLOBAL MISSION** (adapted by MTW from the African American Heritage Hymnal, 2001) -Carol Christenson

Leader: God whose image is manifest in the beauty and rich diversity of human language and culture, you call us to engage with the world.

**People: May we respond to your calling with glad hearts, seeing in all people the deeper expressions of true humanity, affirming our similarities and overcoming our differences.**

Leader: Our international relationships give us the courage to leave our comfort zones, both close to home and far away. God of community, make us friends to the world, the world which you love so dearly, and for which you gave your Son.

**People: Lord, may your compassionate spirit be manifest through feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and establishing democratic government.**

Leader: Help us, O God, to eliminate disease, forgive crippling debt, increase literacy, encourage technological and agricultural self-sufficiency, and to nurture sustainable ecosystems.

**People: Thank you, God of Wisdom, for models of international reconciliation and truth-telling. Use such models to rid the world of ethnic violence, and to increase patience and understanding throughout your creation.**

Leader: Knowing you are with us always,

**People: let us go with love, rejoicing.**

**ANTHEM** “Silent Devotion” -Kingsley  
Laura Prichard, soloist

## HEARING OF THE WORD

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 -Reader, Joe Carter

**SERMON** “Finding Courage” - Rev. Mark Winters

\***HYMN** (insert) “For Such a Time as This” -Morning Song  
-Text Dr. Mark Winters

## CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### LORD'S PRAYER (Debts)

**PRAYER RESPONSE** “Even Though the Rain Hides the Stars” -Lawton

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** “Morning Song” -Held

## \*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## \*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless O God, these gifts, to your holy purpose. Use them to increase your compassion, and assist our neighbor, in this community and beyond. In Christ we pray; amen

\***HYMN** #525 “Here I Am, Lord” - Here I Am, Lord

## \*BENEDICTION

**POSTLUDE** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” -Manz

\* Congregation Standing (if able)

**“...Whoever you are,  
whomever you love,  
and wherever you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome here!”**

### **Welcome to the Federated Church**

We welcome you, and affirm your whole identity, including sexual, gender, racial, economic, educational, ability, and all other kinds of identity! We welcome your questions and differences of opinion or belief.

If you need help finding a hymnal, restroom, or anything else you need, please ask an usher. Please also join us for coffee hour in the Parish House, across the courtyard, after worship. Our services are live-streamed. If you prefer to be off camera, we recommend sitting toward the back on the left-hand side.

Head Deacon:	Herb Ward
Ushers:	Susan Waldrop & Herb Ward
Flowers:	Fran Watson
Coffee Hour	Fran Watson
A/V Team Member:	Bill Veno
Choir Practice	Tuesday at 4:30 PM
AA Meeting:	Saturday at 8:00 PM

In Office Hours: Monday, 1-3:30PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9AM-3PM

The Rev. Dr. Mark Winters, Minister, Mr. Peter R. Boak, Minister of Music

Ms. Gretchen Regan, Moderator

Matt Durawa, Church Administrator

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[www.FederatedChurchMV.org](http://www.FederatedChurchMV.org) – [Facebook.com/federatedchurchmv](https://www.facebook.com/federatedchurchmv) – [YouTube/federatedchurchmv](https://www.youtube.com/federatedchurchmv)



**The Federated Church of Martha’s Vineyard  
Edgartown, Massachusetts  
International Missions Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
A welcoming community serving God and neighbor**