

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

July 18, 2021

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to Worship at the virtual Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're happy to have you with us this morning.

Our Church Mission Statement

*To be a dynamic and nurturing community
called by God's grace
to know Christ and make Him known
through worship, love, and service.*

Adopted September 15, 2019



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST VIRTUAL & OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON THE FRONT LAWN



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God through Jesus, the Christ calls us to this sacred outdoor space to worship and leave the tumult of our lives behind.

All: Jesus calls us! We have come because we follow him in discipleship.

One: Jesus asks that we worship God instead of other idols in this world that would consume us.

All: Jesus calls us! We will not allow a lust for greed and power to overcome us.

One: God through Jesus, the Christ is always with us to surround us with love through life's joys and sorrows, griefs and pain.

All: Jesus calls us! We will continue to give our hearts to God and do God's work in the world. Let us worship God!

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #337

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

² Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home, and toil, and kindred,
leaving all for his dear sake.

⁵ Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander, 1852 MUSIC: William H. Jude, 1874 // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, we confess our sins to you because we know you love us as your children. We try to follow your “Right Way for Living,” but all too often we stray from the path. We don’t always welcome strangers as we should and as a result, we deny them proper hospitality. We are quick to judge others before we “remove the log that is in our own eye.” Hasty words cause conflict and tension. We pray that you will forgive our failings and know you will help us as we continue to strive to live into Jesus’ example. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, recall these words of Scripture: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” It is Christ who said, “I will never fail you or forsake you.” In Christ Jesus we can be assured that we are forgiven; forgiven by his love that was poured out on the cross for us. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Patti Hany ~ solo

Beautiful Savior

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 7:1-14a (NLT)

7 When King David was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all the surrounding enemies, ² the king summoned Nathan the prophet. “Look,” David said, “I am

living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of God is out there in a tent!”

³ Nathan replied to the king, “Go ahead and do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴ But that same night the LORD said to Nathan,

⁵ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD has declared: Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? ⁶ I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. I have always moved from one place to another with a tent and a Tabernacle as my dwelling. ⁷ Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel’s tribal leaders, the shepherds of my people Israel. I have never asked them, “Why haven’t you built me a beautiful cedar house?””

⁸ “Now go and say to my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! ¹⁰ And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won’t oppress them as they’ve done in the past, ¹¹ starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

“Furthermore, the LORD declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings! ¹² For when you die and are buried

with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Psalm 89:20-24, 34-37 (CEB)

²⁰ I discovered my servant David.

I anointed him with my holy oil.

²¹ My hand will sustain him—

yes, my arm will strengthen him!

²² No enemy will oppress him;

no wicked person will make him suffer.

²³ I will crush all his foes in front of him.

I will strike down all those who hate him.

²⁴ My faithfulness and my loyal love will be with him.

He will be strengthened by my name.

³⁴ I won't break my covenant.

I won't renege on what crossed my lips.

³⁵ By my own holiness I've sworn one thing:

I will not lie to David.

³⁶ His dynasty will last forever.

His throne will be like the sun, always before me.

³⁷ It will be securely established forever;

like the moon, a faithful witness in the sky.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:11-22 (MSG)

11-13 But don't take any of this for granted. It was only yesterday that you outsiders to God's ways had no idea of any of this, didn't know the first thing about the way God works, hadn't the faintest idea of Christ. You knew nothing of that rich history of God's covenants and promises in Israel, hadn't a clue about what God was doing in the world at large. Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything.

14-15 The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance. He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then he started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, he created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody.

16-18 Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

19-22 That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong* here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home.

He’s using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Spare Time Discipleship”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #100

When Morning Gilds the Skies

¹ *When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries,
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
to Jesus I repair;
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

WORDS: German hymn (early 19th century); tr. Edward Caswall, 1858, alt. MUSIC: Joseph Bamby, 1868 // CCLI #1326969

SILENT MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER (debts)

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. Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #323

Wonderful Words of Life

¹ *Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life.
Words of life and beauty,
teach me faith and duty:*

[Refrain:]

*Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.*

³ *Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life.
Jesus, only Savior,
sanctify forever. [Refrain]*

WORDS and MUSIC: Phillip P. Bliss, 1874 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #323

One: Christ has given us God's wonderful words for life to take into the community and the world as God's disciples.

All: We will use these words of faith and duty in our discipleship.

One: God's love will sustain us throughout our lives as we do God's work in the world.

All: We give thanks for God's wonderful words of love and life. We have been renewed and refreshed by God's love. Amen.

