

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

July 25, 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



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this very room, this beautiful Sanctuary, we come to be filled with love, joy, and hope.

All: Jesus, our Lord is in this Sanctuary with us; his love will chase away gloom and despair to bring us joy and hope.

One: We are blest to worship together as a community of faith.

All: Jesus, our Lord is in this Sanctuary. We lift our hearts in praise to God through Jesus, the Christ. Let us worship God!

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #295

In This Very Room

¹ In this very room there's quite enough love for one like me, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for one like me; and there's quite enough hope, and quite enough pow'r to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

² In this very room there's quite enough love for all of us, and in this very room there's quite enough joy for all of us; and there's quite enough hope, and quite enough pow'r to chase away any gloom, for Jesus, Lord Jesus, is in this very room.

WORDS and MUSIC: Ron and Carol Harris, 1979 © 1979 Ron Harris Music // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Deliverance, we know your mercy will be upon us as we confess our sins. You provide us with goodness and blessings, yet we don't always appreciate those blessings and sometimes misuse them. We yearn for the same possessions that our neighbors enjoy. Too often, we allow envy, greed, and selfishness to enter our lives. We ask you to quiet our longings for material riches and instead, help us to realize that when we trust in Jesus, he will provide for our needs. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Paul reminds us to live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. We are to stand firm in unity of spirit and strive side by side with one another to keep our faith strong. As we focus our minds on the goodness of God, we will have the assurance that in Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Reflections

Robin Miller ~ handbell solo, Dennis Carroll ~ piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 11:1-15 (NLT)

11 In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites.

They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

²Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. ³He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” ⁴Then David sent messengers to get her; and when she came to the palace, he slept with her. She had just completed the purification rites after having her menstrual period. Then she returned home. ⁵Later, when Bathsheba discovered that she was pregnant, she sent David a message, saying, “I’m pregnant.”

⁶Then David sent word to Joab: “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” So Joab sent him to David. ⁷When Uriah arrived, David asked him how Joab and the army were getting along and how the war was progressing. ⁸Then he told Uriah, “Go on home and relax.” David even sent a gift to Uriah after he had left the palace. ⁹But Uriah didn’t go home. He slept that night at the palace entrance with the king’s palace guard.

¹⁰When David heard that Uriah had not gone home, he summoned him and asked, “What’s the matter? Why didn’t you go home last night after being away for so long?”

¹¹Uriah replied, “The Ark and the armies of Israel and Judah are living in tents, and Joab and my master’s men are camping in the open fields. How could I go home to wine and dine and sleep with my wife? I swear that I would never do such a thing.”

¹² “Well, stay here today,” David told him, “and tomorrow you may return to the army.” So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next. ¹³ Then David invited him to dinner and got him drunk. But even then he couldn’t get Uriah to go home to his wife. Again he slept at the palace entrance with the king’s palace guard.

¹⁴ So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. ¹⁵ The letter instructed Joab, “Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed.”

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-21 (CEB)

6 After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). ² A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick. ³ Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples. ⁴ It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, “Where will we buy food to feed these people?” ⁶ Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, “More than a half year’s salary worth of food wouldn’t be enough for each person to have even a little bit.”

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ⁹ “A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?”

¹⁰ Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted. ¹² When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, “This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

¹⁶ When evening came, Jesus’ disciples went down to the lake. ¹⁷ They got into a boat and were crossing the lake to Capernaum. It was already getting dark and Jesus hadn’t come to them yet. ¹⁸ The water was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When the wind had driven them out for about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He was approaching the boat and they were afraid. ²⁰ He said to them, “I Am. Don’t be afraid.” ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and just then the boat reached the land where they had been heading.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Choices Matter”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #585

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

¹ *What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!*

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 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 #557

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

¹ *I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.*

[Refrain:]

*Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

² *Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. [Refrain]*

WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #557

One: Let us all remember that Jesus is with us always.

All: **Our lives will reflect the truth that Jesus walks with us on our journey.**

One: Go out in peace! Go out in joy! Go out in love!

All: **Amen.**

