

# ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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**August 29, 2021**

**10:00 A.M.**

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**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



## **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **“A TRIBUTE FOR ESTHER”**

## **WELCOME**

## **GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** God is very near to us.

**All:** **We come together to praise God who lives and dwells  
among us.**

**One:** Bring your songs and your praises and let the Spirit of  
God be heard in this place!

**All: We praise God with song and voice; with all varieties of music and laughter, and we greet one another with love.**

**One: Let us worship God with joy! Amen.**

**HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #6

***Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above***

<sup>1</sup> *Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
to God all praise and glory!*

<sup>2</sup> *Our God is never far away,  
but through all grief distressing,  
an ever present help and stay,  
our peace and joy and blessing.  
As with a mother's tender hand  
God gently leads the chosen band;  
to God all praise and glory!*

<sup>3</sup> *Then all my gladsome way along  
I sing aloud your praises  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
both soul and body take your part;  
to God all praise and glory!*

*<sup>4</sup> Let all who name Christ's holy name  
give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own God's power proclaim  
around the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne,  
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone;  
to God all praise and glory!*

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt. MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906 // CCLI #1326969

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Redeeming God, we confess that we have sometimes failed in our ministry to others. We listen for teachings that are to our own liking and neglect the teachings that would have us “change our ways.” We look for Scriptures that boost our egos rather than Scriptures that would humble us. We are tempted to follow those who flatter us. At times, we seek comfort and not challenge from our confessions of faith. We ask that you renew a Right Spirit within us and help us know Righteousness as you forgive our sins. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Jesus said: “I am the Light of the World.” Whoever follows Christ Jesus will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life. Jesus came as Light into the world, so that whoever believes in Him will not remain in darkness. Come now to that Light, for in Christ Jesus we are renewed and forgiven. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

Chalice Hymnal #35

*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 with-out end. A-men. A-men.*

## ENGAGING THE WORD

### ANTHEM

*My Heart Ever Faithful*

Piano/Organ Duet ~ Esther Pezzella and Dennis Carroll

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-20 (NIV)

**5** <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 150 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
praise him with the harp and lyre,

<sup>4</sup> praise him with timbrel and dancing,  
praise him with the strings and pipe,

<sup>5</sup> praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
praise him with resounding cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.  
Praise the LORD.

## MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Music, Music, Music”

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #599

*Day by Day*

*Day by day,*

*O, dear Lord, three things we pray:*

*to see thee more clearly,*

*love thee more dearly,*

*follow thee more nearly,*

*day by day.*

WORDS: Attr. Richard of Chichester, (13<sup>th</sup> century), alt. MUSIC: Stephen Schwartz, 1971  
Music © 1971 Range Road Music Inc., Quartet Music, Inc. and New Cadenza Music Corp. //  
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.

## **VIRTUAL OFFERING**

Sentence

## **DOXOLOGY**

Chalice Hymnal #46

*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. A-men.*

## **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ALL: God of Graciousness, please accept the tributes we bring to you, and bless our endeavors in your name. We will sing your praises with our voices; we will care for the suffering with our hands. We will seek to walk faithfully with our feet; with our hearts, we will love you completely. We give of what we have to you in thankfulness for all the blessings we receive from you. Amen.**

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #22

#### *All Creatures of Our God and King*

<sup>1</sup> *All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

*O burning sun with golden beam,  
O silver moon with softer gleam:*

[Refrain]

*O praise God, O praise God,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

<sup>2</sup> *O rushing wind with voice so strong,  
you clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise God, Alleluia!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
you lights of evening find a voice: [Refrain]*

<sup>3</sup> *O flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your God to hear,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
O blazing fire who lights the night,  
providing warmth, enhancing sight, [Refrain]*

<sup>4</sup> *And all forgiven tender hearts,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
sing praises, alleluia!  
You who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God, who knows your ev'ry care. [Refrain]*

WORDS: Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925, alt. MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 // CCLI #1326969

## RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Praise God all week long.

**All: We shall praise God for his surpassing greatness!**

One: Listen to the songs of the earth as the birds sing and the wind wafts through the trees.

**All: We shall praise God with thanksgiving and appreciate our blessings.**

One: Go out in peace! Go out in joy! Go out in love! Go out with songs in your heart! Amen.

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Chalice Hymnal #434

***God Be with You Till We Meet Again***  
<sup>1</sup> *God be with you till we meet a-gain;  
lov-ing coun-sels guide, up-hold you,  
with a shep-herd's care en-fold you:  
God be with you till we meet a-gain.*



CEB – Common English Bible  
MSG – The Message  
NLT – New Living Translation