

# ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

September 12, 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



**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**RALLY SUNDAY**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY**

**ALL CHURCH PICNIC AT ARBOR PARK**

**WELCOME**

## **GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** Let us tune our hearts to sing songs of graciousness to  
God, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

**All:** **We have come to praise God who, through Christ  
Jesus, is the source of all our many blessings!**

One: Let us give praise to Christ Jesus! He will always draw us  
back to God even when we go astray.

**All: We give our hearts to God who blesses us with  
unconditional love. We will keep God's songs in our  
hearts.**

**Let us worship God!**

**HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #16

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

<sup>1</sup> *Come, thou fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy never ceasing  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious measure  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.*

<sup>2</sup> *Here I raise to thee an altar;  
hither by thy help I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.*

<sup>3</sup> *O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,*

*prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
seal it from thy courts above.*

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt. MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813 // CCLI #1326969

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of Salvation, your eternal and unconditional love make it possible for us to confess our sins and know that we will be heard. Too often, fear and suspicion keep us apart from our neighbors. We do not pray for those who are considered our enemy. Christ Jesus came to reconcile our differences, yet we do not invite everyone to dine at table with us. We ask that you unite us in the bond of unconditional love. Amen.**

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

Pastor: Consider these words of Scripture from Hebrews 10:19, 21-22 (CEB): "Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the curtain, which is his body, and we have a great high priest over God's house. Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water." In Christ Jesus we are 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**

### **BLESSING OUR FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY**

**All: God of Light and Life, we will endeavor to notice and to appreciate one another's efforts as volunteers who do God's work. We promise to be loving, respectful, and welcoming of all your people as we continue our Christian journey to live in your way. Amen.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

(Children will be dismissed to Sunday School at this time.)

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1 (CEB)

<sup>26</sup> She's the brightness that shines forth from eternal light. She's a mirror that flawlessly reflects God's activity. She's the perfect image of God's goodness. <sup>27</sup> She can do anything, since she's one and undivided. She never changes, and yet she makes everything new. Generation after generation, she enters souls and shapes them into God's friends and prophets. <sup>28</sup> God doesn't love anything as much as people who make their home with Wisdom. <sup>29</sup> She's more splendid than the sun and more wonderful than the arrangement of the stars. She's even brighter than sunlight, <sup>30</sup> for night follows day, but evil can never overcome Wisdom.

**8** She stands strong from one end of the world to the other. She is a marvelous governor over everything in between.

**When You Open Your Mouth**

**3** <sup>1-2</sup> Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

**3-5** A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

**5-6** It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

**7-10** This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

**10-12** My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they? Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

## MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“The Art of Blessing”

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #58

*Many and Great, O God*

*<sup>2</sup> Grant unto us communion with thee,  
thou star abiding one;  
come unto us and dwell with us;  
with thee are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end,  
eternal life with thee.*

WORDS: Joseph R. Renville, c. 1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1929 MUSIC: Native American melody; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986 Harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. // 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 Justice and Peace, we give our lives to you in thanksgiving for the bounty of blessings you impart to us throughout our lives. You refresh our hearts every day with the gift of Christ Jesus, our Savior. You will renew us today through the gift of Communion. May what we bring to you enrich others so that they too may share in life's goodness and your graciousness. Take us please and use us as your stewards to bring your Light to our community and the world. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Our church welcomes to communion people of all ages  
who desire to follow Jesus Christ and grow in faith.*

All are invited to prepare communion elements in their home (loaf of bread, dinner roll, croissant, slice of bread, etc., and glass of orange or grape juice, wine or water, etc.).

## COMMUNION HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #284

### *Gather Us In*

<sup>1</sup> *Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits  
inflare. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at  
the sound of our name.*

*<sup>2</sup> We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old,  
who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of  
history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in  
– the rich and the haughty; gather us in – the proud and the  
strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the  
courage to enter the song.*

*<sup>3</sup> Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the  
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your  
daughters, call us a-new to be salt for the earth. Give us to  
drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is  
you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy  
and hearts that are true.*

WORDS & MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. // CCLI #1326969

## INVITATION

Chalice Hymnal #388

### *Remember Me*

#### **ALL:**

*Upon the loaf and upon the cup of the Lord, in letters which  
speak not to the eye, but to the heart of every disciple, is  
inscribed, “When this you see, remember me.” Indeed, the  
Lord says to each disciple, when he receives the symbols into  
his hand, “This is my body broken for you.” The loaf is thus  
constituted a representation of his body – first whole, then  
wounded for our sins. The cup is thus instituted a  
representation of his blood – once his life, but now poured out  
to cleanse us from our sins.*

Alexander Campbell, 19th-century Disciples forebear // CCLI #1326969

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## SHARING OF THE SACRED MEAL

## UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All: Eternal God of Love, we thank you for uniting us by baptism into the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips that have sung your praises may speak the truth. Grant that in the days ahead our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world. Grant that the days ahead our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #33

#### *How Great Thou Art*

<sup>1</sup> *O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

[Refrain:]

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

<sup>2</sup> *When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;*

<sup>3</sup> *And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin;*

<sup>4</sup> *When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!*

WORDS and MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody and a poem by Carol Gustav Boberg, 1885 © 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music, Inc. // CCLI #1326969

## **UNISON BENEDICTION**

**All: Oh Lord our God, we go out into the world renewed and refreshed with your Love. We rejoice in the sights and sounds of our earth and will give thanks every day for the awe of the universe! Our souls, Loving God, will sing to your greatness and your graciousness! We will spread the Good News of Your Love far and wide! 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.*



*Many thanks to  
Robin Miller  
for the worship music this morning.*