

# ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

September 19, 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



## **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JUST PEACE SUNDAY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE SERVICE**

### **WELCOME**

### **GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

#### **UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 1 (CEB)

**All: <sup>1</sup> The truly happy person  
doesn't follow wicked advice,  
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,  
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.**

**<sup>2</sup> Instead of doing those things,  
these persons love the LORD's Instruction,**

**and they recite God's Instruction day and night!**

**<sup>3</sup> They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,  
which bears fruit at just the right time  
and whose leaves don't fade.**

**Whatever they do succeeds.**

**<sup>4</sup> That's not true for the wicked!**

**They are like dust that the wind blows away.**

**<sup>5</sup> And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the  
court of justice—**

**neither will sinners**

**in the assembly of the righteous.**

**<sup>6</sup> The LORD is intimately acquainted**

**with the way of the righteous,**

**but the way of the wicked is destroyed.**

**Let us worship God!**

**HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #595

***Be Thou My Vision***

*<sup>1</sup> Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*<sup>2</sup> Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,  
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.*

WORDS: Irish song (8<sup>th</sup> century); tr: Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt. MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963 Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House // CCLI #1326969

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of Love, who sent Jesus among us, we ask that you hear our confessions and forgive our sins. When we invoke Christ's name for selfish reasons, have mercy upon us. When our faith is convenient and does not lead to commitment, please surround us with your graciousness, so that we may honor our covenants with you. Forgive us, and through Christ Jesus make us whole. Amen.**

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

Pastor: God, who remains with us in our hearts, is our vision, our presence, and our Light. Colossians 1:19-20 tells us: "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things whether on earth or in heaven by making peace through the blood of the cross." The peace that Christ Jesus won gives us the Assurance of Forgiveness. 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**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

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

## NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

James 3:13 – 4:13, 7-8a (CEB)

### Wisdom from above

<sup>13</sup> Are any of you wise and understanding? Show that your actions are good with a humble lifestyle that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> However, if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, then stop bragging and living in ways that deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above. Instead, it is from the earth, natural and demonic. <sup>16</sup> Wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and everything that is evil. <sup>17</sup> What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. <sup>18</sup> Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts.

### Conflict with people and God

**4** What is the source of conflict among you? What is the source of your disputes? Don't they come from your cravings that are at war in your own lives? <sup>2</sup> You long for something you don't have, so you commit murder. You are jealous for something you can't get, so you struggle and fight. You don't have because you don't ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings.

<sup>4</sup> You unfaithful people! Don't you know that friendship with the world means hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the world's friend becomes God's enemy. <sup>5</sup> Or do you suppose that scripture is meaningless? Doesn't God long for our faithfulness in the life he has given to us? <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more

grace. This is why it says, *God stands against the proud, but favors the humble.* <sup>7</sup> Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Cry out in sorrow, mourn, and weep! Let your laughter become mourning and your joy become sadness. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

<sup>11</sup> Brothers and sisters, don't say evil things about each other. Whoever insults or criticizes a brother or sister insults and criticizes the Law. If you find fault with the Law, you are not a doer of the Law but a judge over it. <sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, and he is able to save and to destroy. But you who judge your neighbor, who are you?

### **Warning the proud and wealthy**

<sup>13</sup> Pay attention, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such-and-such a town. We will stay there a year, buying and selling, and making a profit."

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Joanne Myer

"God Calls Us To Peace"

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #678

#### *The Nature of Peace*

**Peace is not the product of terror or fear.**

**Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.**

**Peace is not the result of violent repression.**

**Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.**

**Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity.**

**It is right and duty.**

*Oscar A. Romero, 20<sup>th</sup>-century El Salvadorian archbishop*

From *The Violence of Love* by Archbishop Oscar Romero, edited by James R. Brockman and Henri Nouwen; © 1988 by Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus; reprinted by permission of Harper Collins Publishers, 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:** Eternal God, you call us to follow Jesus' example and Jesus' teachings. We offer ourselves to be filled with his commandments. We dedicate our actions based on his example. We commit our intentions to be led by his Spirit. With all that we have, we seek to be faithful. Please accept our endeavors and bless our ambitions. In Christ Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### GOING WITH THE WORD

#### HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #722

#### *This Is My Song*

<sup>1</sup> *This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands a-far and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

<sup>3</sup> *This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations: let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done. In peace may all earth's people draw together, and hearts united learn to live as one. O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.*

WORDS: St. 1, 2, Lloyd Stone, 1934; st. 3, Georgia Harkness, c. 1939, alt. MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. 899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933 St. 1, 2 © 1934, 1962; Lorenz Publishing Co.; st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Co.; reprinted by permission, permit #236735; arr. © 1933, renewed 1961, Presbyterian Board of Christian Education // CCLI #1326969

**RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**     Adapted from Hymn #722

One: Let us go out and sing songs of peace.

**All: We shall sing God-led songs of peace for our country and the world.**

One: This week, notice the beauty and blessings of the earth. Let's not take any of God's beauty and blessings for granted.

**All: We will give thanks and we will pray that all earth's people will one day draw together in peace and be united as one. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**     Chalice Hymnal #677

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.*

*With God our creator, children all are we.*

*Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.*

*With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*



*Many thanks to*

*Robin Miller*

*for the worship music this morning.*

