

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

December 6, 2020

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

COMMUNION SUNDAY

PRESENTATION OF

THE THREE TREE'S



(ECC ADVENT 2020)

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

4. *O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.*

Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt.; Lewis H. Redner, 1868 // CCLI #1326969

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Anna Carroll and Duane Carroll

Reader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Peace.

Our peace is found in God and in his son, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist, and all the prophets remind us, that to receive peace we must be open to it for our lives. Then to practice peacemaking in our relationships.

All: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope and the peace God bestows.

Light the First and Second Blue Candles

Reader: Let us pray:

All: O God of Peace, Emmanuel, we pray you, send your light into our hearts. Help us to be ready for the coming of Christ. Work in our hearts at this time and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that he brings - the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you and the outer peace which we are called to live in all our relationships. Bless our worship that it may be pleasing to you, and bless us that we may prove to be Christs followers. Amen.

Song

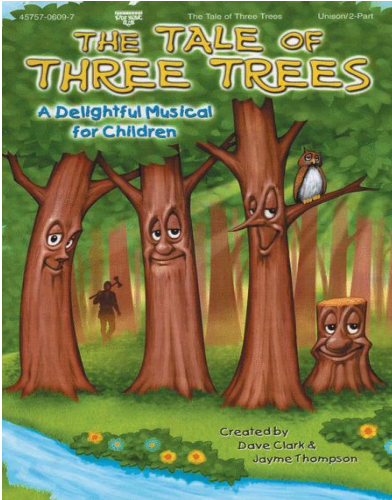
Chalice Hymnal #128 v. 2

One Candle Is Lit

*Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.*

Mary Anne Parrott, 1988, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895, Words © 1995 Chalice Press // CCLI #1326969





A Musical for Children

Created by Dave Clark and
Jayme Thompson

Published by Brentwood-
Benson Kids Club

Streaming permission from
Brentwood Benson

Directed by Esther Pezzella
with much help!

The Tale of Three Trees brings to life the traditional story of some trees with a dream and a God with a plan. Follow the adventures of Annabelle, who dreams of holding great treasure. Bud, who longs to become a mighty ship, and Gabrielle, who just wants to stay in the forest and point people toward God. Through the eyes of Woody the woodcutter, Stump, who is rooted in puns and Woodsworth, the tree of knowledge, we are reminded that even when we can't see the forest for the trees, there is no prayer that is too small for God.

Every Tree in the Forest

Who Wouldn't Want to Be Me

I Have a Dream ~ Annabelle, Bud and Gabrielle

*How Much Wood Would a Woodcutter Cut If a Woodcutter
Could Cut Wood*

When We Can't See the Forest for the Trees

Let Me Live to Serve You, Lord

Every Tree in the Forest (Reprise)

CCLI #1326969 // CCLI Streaming #20257779

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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.).

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Now in this season of Advent, God comes to be with you!

All: God comes to be with you as well!

Pastor: As we continue our journey to Bethlehem, let us open our hearts to God.

All: For God will fill them with strength and courage for the journey.

Pastor: Let us join our voices in singing praise to God.

All: We will lift glad songs of joy to the One who is coming to us!

Pastor: At the beginning of time, God-of-the-first-moment,
You tore open chaos, so creation might flow unimpeded:
Stars and planets, animals, fish and birds
To populate this earth, and sing your praises,
Along with us, human beings, made in your
image.

All these fresh and glorious wonders were crafted by
you,
So we might live in your joy forever,
But we chose to despoil your creation
And live in self centered ways.
Time and again you sent prophets, women and men,
Inspired by your Spirit,

But we turned a deaf ear to them, refusing to notice you.
So you came down to us in Jesus, your Child of
abundant life,
The sign of your grace, which never ends.
So today, as we gather to mark this holy season,
We sing your praises:

**All: Holy, holy, holy are you God who comes to be with us.
All creation gives thanks to you, always and forever.
Glory to you in the highest!
Blessed is the One who gathers us to you,
Glory to you in the highest!**

Pastor: In your holiness, you could have remained separate
from us,
God of compassion and hope,
But in your love, you came to us to be one of us
in Jesus.
When we struggle in despair's poverty,
he enriches us with your grace.
When we are weakened by fear,
he strengthens us with your hope.
When we think our lives are empty of meaning,
he fill us with everything we need.
When death thought it had lulled him to sleep,
he kept alert, waiting for your resurrection love
to gather him up and bring him new life.

Therefore, we proclaim that mystery which is our faith:

**All: Christ died, giving his life as he called out to you.
Christ has been raised up, resurrection love shining
the way.
Christ is coming, to gather us from every time and
place!**

Words of Institution:

As the Pastor takes bread and breaks it, and as he holds the cup and blesses it, each of you are invited to do the same action: lift the bread and break it, lift the cup and bless it.

Pastor: Let us remember what happened when Jesus gathered with friends for what would be his last meal. During the supper, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God for God's abundant grace and provision for all our needs, blessed the bread and broke it....then he passed the bread around saying to the women and men sitting with him, this is like my body which will be broken for you and for the whole world, so that everyone can enjoy a new relationship with God based on love.

Later in that supper, Jesus took the cup and gave God thanks for God's goodness, then he blessed the cup and holding it aloft said, this is representative of my lifeblood, which is going to be sacrificed because of my love for you and my loyalty to God's purposes for all people. Drink this, all of you, and when you do, remember my teaching, my life example, and my dying hopes for you to live in God's love and grace with one another.

Prayer of Consecration:

Pastor: Remembering that we are your people,
 You pour out your Holy Spirit on us
And the gifts prepared for this festive meal.
You came down to earth in Jesus,
 And now we find you in the broken bread,
 Which gives us the strength
 To be your hope to those in sadness
 To be your light to those in shadows
 To be your justice to the oppressed.
Your life was poured out for us in Jesus,
 And now we find your grace in the cup,

Which gives us the spirit
To be your healing to the broken
To be your family to the lonely
To be your love to those who are ignored.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: God of pregnant expectations and of Christmas promise, fill us with hope as we wait in expectation of Jesus' coming to us and to our world. As we have shared this sacred meal, fill us with your grace toward those who are the last, the least, the lost. Call us to make a difference in the world by the love that grows in our hearts, the faith that changes our lives and the joy that transforms everything we do in the name of the One who is coming, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,*

*O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,*

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

BENEDICTION



A TALE OF THREE TREES

Cast

Annabelle ~ Annabel

Bud ~ Drew

Dreamer Tree ~ Lyla

Fruit Tree ~ Mr. Scott

Gabrielle ~ Laurel

Happy Tree ~ Miranda

Stump ~ Emma

Voice in the Distance ~ Mrs. Pezzella

Woodsworth ~ Rachel

Woody ~ Mr. Francis

Many thanks to the helpers behind the scenes for this
virtual, pandemic musical!

