

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

December 13, 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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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WINTERFEST HANDBELL RINGERS

PRESENTATION OF

GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING



(ECC ADVENT 2020)

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 40:1-5)

One: In this season we hear a voice calling out: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make the way straight and flat and smooth so that God can come in.

All: Yet we are often so distracted and busy with many good things at this time of year, that we don't even pay attention.

One: This hour, this time apart from the over scheduled places of our lives, can provide a respite, an oasis in the desert, a quiet place for prayer and regrouping.

All: We come to this sanctuary this morning, to be reminded about what is really important, to do that important interior work of preparing our hearts and lives for God to live in us!

One: So the inner soul "road work" we are doing, will mean we are open to the glory of God coming alive in us.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #155

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. *Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains. [Refrain]*

Refrain: *Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ, who comes in lowly birth.
Come, adore on bended knee
Jesus, joy of heav'n and earth. [Refrain]*

Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956 Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House desc. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co. // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of love and joy, you come to us and find us, no matter what condition the road way is in. We are waiting again this year, with our own struggles and pains, our doubts and confusion, alongside of others throughout this world who have their own difficulties and hurts. But we can be so rushed and harried and anxious to get everything done, that we do not even hear your cries for help coming from the people we encounter each day. So slow us down a bit, open our hearts a lot, remind us to pay attention to small things like a new born baby crying, and invite us to delight in those really big things like forgiveness and change that are miracles of this holy season as we look for the coming for Jesus. Amen

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: Do you know that God is coming to you, to your family, to our world? Are you ready to open your heart to God? The Baby we are preparing for, is already coming to us! The Spirit of God comes to you and to me bringing grace and new life! So let us rejoice that God's love is filling out lives! Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Alice and Jol Sprowles

Reader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy.

Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like hope and peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what God has promised to do.

All: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope and the peace God bestows, and for the joy God pours into our hearts.

*Light the First, Second, and Third (Rose) Candle
(front left to right counter clock wise)*

Reader: Let us pray:

All: O God of Joy, Emmanuel, send your light into our hearts. Help us to be ready for the coming of Christ. Fix our hearts and our minds on those things you have done and those you have promised to do so that we may have the joy you have promised. As we worship you, strengthen us so that we may always do your will and so bless you and the world you have made. Amen.

Song

Hymnal #128, vs. 3

One Candle Is Lit

*Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.*

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Glory to the Newborn King!

arr. Anna Laura Page

Published by Choirsters Guild

Directed by Esther Pezzella

Recorded & Produced by Scott Noble - ECC virtual service.

Accompanied by piano and organ.

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High
Once in Royal David's City
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Away in a Manger
Joy to the World*

*Presented by the Winterfest Ringers
Carolyn Bunick ~ Anna Carroll ~ Duane Carroll
Robin Miller ~ Alice Sprowles ~ Jol Sprowles*

*We appreciate the dedication and practice of the
Handbell Choir.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray:

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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

Organ and Handbells

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

1. *I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth goodwill to men*

4. *Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail the right prevail
With peace on earth goodwill to men*

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BENEDICTION

This morning's Lay Reader: Alice Sprowles