

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

December 27, 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.*

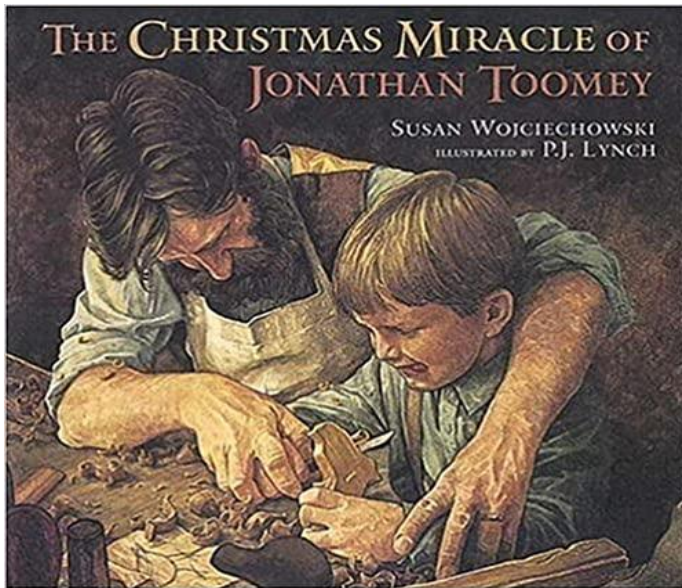
Our Church Mission Statement

*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



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS A CHRISTMAS STORY FOR ALL



GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The real light - the light that shines on all humankind, has come into the world. Jesus the Christ is born!

All: He is the light of life, and through him we are blessed with grace and truth.

One: Let us give God praise and glory.

All: Let us worship God together.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #163

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. *Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle-stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings
bringing:*

Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. *Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story-- tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the
morrow:*

*Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for
you.*

Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1925; Polish folk melody; adapt. A. E. Rusbridge, Adapt.
Used by permission of Rosalind Rusbridge // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of grace and glory, we gather to worship you, to celebrate the birthing of the word among us in Jesus the Christ. We praise you for this wondrous gift, your word most holy, spoken into our world in human form. In our worshiping, we would see Jesus, be alert to his guidance, and open to his transforming power in our lives and in the church. For Christ alone is light for the path, hope for the heart, and wholeness for body and soul. Through Christ, may grace and truth become enfleshed in us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: God is with us today and always offering forgiveness, joy, peace. Let us live as new people singing God's praises!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ENGAGING THE WORD

UNISON SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-24

Jesus dedicated to God in the Temple

²¹ After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what

is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:25-35

Simeon Recognizes the Holiness of Jesus

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant^[e] in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon^[f] blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:36-40

Anna Speaks about the Baby's Future

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

ANTHEM

violin solo ~ Dave Robert

Gesu, Bambino

MESSAGE

Read by Dr. Jay and members of the Redekas Family

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey

Written by Susan Wojciechowski

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #167

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

[Refrain] *Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

1 *While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens,
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]*

African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Wprk, Jr., 1907; African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986; Arr. © The United Methodist Publishing House // CCLI #1326969

BENEDICTION



This morning's Lay Reader is: Jol Sprowles