

# ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

---

**January 10, 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.*

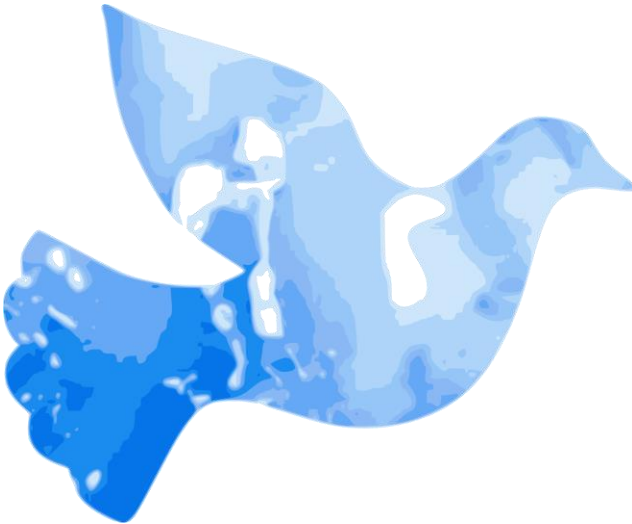
Adopted September 15, 2019



**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**



## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning God said, "Let there be light."

**All: And God saw that the light was good; morning  
broke open on the first day.**

One: After a time, God sent a different Light;  
God sent Jesus, the Life-Light.

**All: Yes! Jesus the Christ came to the world's people.  
God's Light and God's Life-Light illumine our lives  
and open us to worship this day and every day.**

### HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #176

*Sing of God Made Manifest*

*2 Sing of God made manifest  
when at Jordan John confessed,  
"I should be baptized by you,  
but your bidding I will do."  
Then from heaven a double sign--  
dove-like Spirit, voice divine--  
hailed the true Anointed One:  
"This is my beloved Son."*

*4 Sing of God made manifest  
on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,  
where the law and prophets waned  
so that Christ alone remained:  
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace,  
given as Jesus set his face  
towards the waiting cross and grave,  
sign of hope that God would save.*

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Creating God, like the magi we would journey into the presence of Jesus the Christ. There we would offer our gifts. Before Christ, we would lay the realities of our lives, good and bad. We offer our joy, love, and laughter that they can be made holy; we relinquish our bitterness and hatred and worry, that we might be made whole once more. We pray this through the living Spirit of Christ in whose name we will renew our baptismal vows and rededicate our lives to carry out God’s mission in the world through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE**

Pastor: We have seen the Light.

We have heard the call.

We will dance in the Light with our God.

## **ENGAGING THE WORD**

**UNISON OLD TESTAMENT READING**      Genesis 1:1-5

**1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Acts 19:1-7

**19** While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup> Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— <sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

**ANTHEM**

flute solo ~ Rachel Milheiro

*Long, Long Ago***GOSPEL READING**

Mark 1:4-11

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up

out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Joanne Myer

“The Song of the Dove”

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**INVITATION TO RENEW YOUR BAPTISMAL VOWS**

*For the time of the Invitation to Renew Baptismal Vows, you may want to have a bowl filled with a bit of water ready and by your side. It can be any bowl, but perhaps you have one that has meaning to it. The one I will use was made by a friend and is special for me. Sharing it with you for the Renewal of Baptismal Vows will make it even more special.*

**A Liturgy for Renewing One’s Baptismal Vows**

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, through the sacrament of baptism, God’s Spirit has been poured out upon water, water sprinkled or poured over us or immersing us, water that flows freely for all who will receive it, water from the streams of God’s grace, water that brings hope to all who thirst for justice and peace, water that refreshes life, nurtures growth and offers new beginnings.

Today we come to the waters, to renew in each other's presence our commitments to the Spirit who has birthed us, Jesus Christ who raised us up and our Divine Parent who declares us "beloved!" Let us show our gratitude to God by saying 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.

### **Call to Re-Dedication**

Pastor: You and I are the ones who step forth out of the safe waters of baptism, to bring hope, to share a word of love and reconciliation, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives of those around us. Let us confess how we still struggle to follow in trust wherever Jesus Christ leads us. Join me now as we pray together:

**All: Timeless God, You cast Light into sin's dark places and call us your Beloved Ones. Forgive us: when we still linger in the shadows; when we treat others in hurtful ways; when we speak ill of your friends.**

**As he knelt in the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus as your Child, pointing to him and his teaching as the way to your new life. Forgive us: when we put ourselves ahead of him; when we think he is no longer needed; when we fail to see him in the broken ones of our world.**

**Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your followers in our time. Forgive us when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the lonely.**

*Silence is kept*

### **Assurance of God's Grace and Forgiveness**

Pastor: Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of grace and hope, embraced in the warmth of God's love and promises—this is Good News!

**All: Blessed by baptisms tears, called to service in the name of the Beloved, filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are indeed God's people—redeemed, restored, refreshed to love others. Thanks be to God!**

### **Invitation to Remember and Renew Your Baptismal Vows**

Pastor: At this time, please take your bowl of water and gently swirl your fingers in the water. As you do that, please think of God's creation of water - the feel of the raindrops as they touch your face, the beauty and mystery of the world's oceans, the life giving waters of the world's wells and reservoirs. With your fingers still in the water, please say with me, "Loving and Creator God, we ask you to bless this water." "Loving and Creator God, we ask you to bless this water." Now, you may make the sign of the cross on your hand or your forehead, and give thanks to God for life and love Let's pause for a few moments to share with God whatever is in our hearts and minds.

*A Time of Silence*

Thanks be to God. Amen.

## **GOING WITH THE WORD**

### **HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #170

*How Great Our Joy!*

1 *While by the sheep we watched at night,  
lo, there appeared an angel bright: [Refrain]*

[Refrain] *How great our joy! Great our joy!  
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!  
Glory to God who reigns on high!  
Glory to God who reigns on high!*

4 *Jesus, the gift from heav'n above  
fills all our hearts with joy and love. [Refrain]*

Traditional German carol, alt. Traditional German melody; arr. Hugo Jüngst, c. 1890  
// CCLI #1326969

### **BENEDICTION**

