

# ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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**January 17, 2021**

**10:00 A.M.**

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*Welcome to Worship at the virtual Ellington Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ. We're happy to have you with us this morning.*

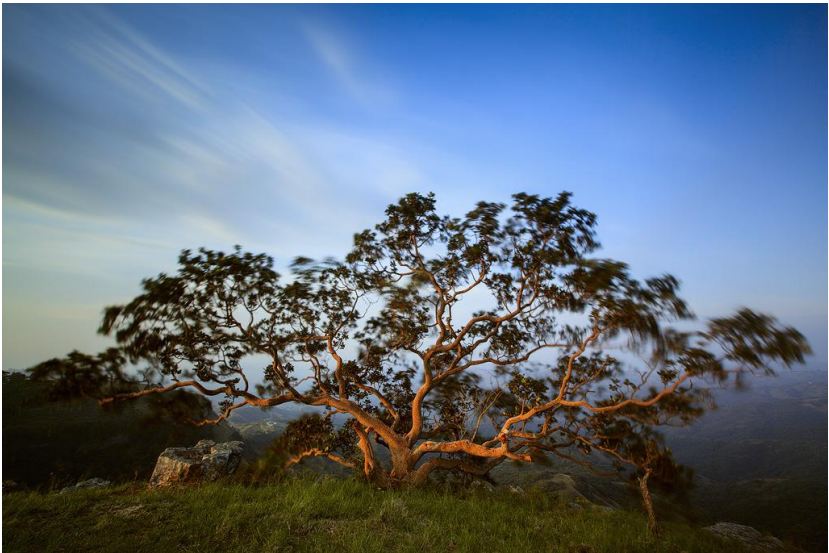
## **Our Church Mission Statement**

*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 AFTER EPIPHANY**



## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Gracious and Loving Creator: we understand we are your children.

**All: And so, Dear God, we turn to you now.**

One: We turn to you for purpose and correction,

**All: for joy and peace,**

One: for a way out of hopeless situations,

**All: for justice,**

One: for forgiveness,

**All: for love,**

One: We turn to you, O God, for all these things offered through Jesus the Christ, the maker of redemption and the bringer of hope.

**All: Amen.**

### HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #253

*Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness*

*1 Spirit, come, dispel our sadness;  
pierce the clouds of nature's night;  
come, O Source of joy and gladness,  
breathe your life, and spread your light.  
From the height that knows no measure,  
as a gracious shower descend,  
bringing down the richest treasure  
we can wish, or God can send.*

*3 Author of the new creation,  
come, anoint us with your power.  
Make our hearts your habitation;  
with your grace our spirits shower.  
Hear, O hear our supplication,  
blessed Spirit, God of peace!  
Rest upon this congregation  
with the fullness of your grace.*

St. 1, 3, Paul Gerhardt, 1648; tr. John Christian Jacobi, c. 1725, alt.; Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986 harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. // CCLI #1326969

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Eternal God, you love us steadfastly, but we have trouble loving in return; you call to us but at times we have clogged ears; you reveal yourself, but our eyelids are heavy; you lead us toward our neighbor, but we build walls around ourselves; you ask us to challenge evil, injustice, and alienation, but we get used to it and accept it by thinking it does not pertain to us. O God, we pray, help us to see ourselves both as we are and as we might be when we follow your “Right Way of Living.” We ask you to draw us by your Spirit’s tie from us to you into your forgiving, renewing and gracious love.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE**

Pastor: God says to us: You are my chosen ones. I love you. I am proud of you. Stand firm in your renewed commitment. Know that I have forgiven you; I call you by name; you are mine. I have entered into covenant with you and will stand by you in all times and all places. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### ENGAGING THE WORD

#### UNISON READING

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (NLT)

- 1 O LORD, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.**
- 2 You know when I sit down or stand up.  
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.**
- 3 You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.  
You know everything I do.**
- 4 You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, LORD.**
- 5 You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.**
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!**
- 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.**
- 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.**
- 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.**
- 16 You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.**
- 17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!**

**18 I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!  
And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!**

**HEWBREW BIBLE READING**      1 Samuel 3:1-10 (NLT)

**3** Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the LORD by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the LORD were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

**2** One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. **3** The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. **4** Suddenly the LORD called out, "Samuel!"

"Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" **5** He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.

**6** Then the LORD called out again, "Samuel!"

Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."

**7** Samuel did not yet know the LORD because he had never had a message from the LORD before. **8** So the LORD called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

Then Eli realized it was the LORD who was calling the boy. **9** So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, LORD, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!”  
And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”

**ANTHEM**

organ solo

*How Firm a Foundation*

**GOSPEL READING**

John 1:43-51 (NLT)

“The New Disciples”

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown.

<sup>45</sup> Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

<sup>46</sup> “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.

<sup>47</sup> As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”

<sup>48</sup> “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

<sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

<sup>50</sup> Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” <sup>51</sup> Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the

Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.”

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Question and Seek”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

*It is a blessing, indeed, to unburden ourselves to God in prayer!  
By being close to God in this way,  
we **can** be Christ’s hands, feet, and voice here on earth.*

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.

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #540

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

2 *O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.*

3 *O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.*

George Matheson, 1882; Albert L. Peace, 1884 // CCLI #1326969

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: God gives life.

**All: God renews life.**

Pastor: God is life.

**All: We will celebrate the life within us.**

Pastor: The peace of God always dwells within you.

**All: Amen.**



This morning's Lay Reader is: Wade Overgaard

