

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

February 21, 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 IN LENT

COMMUNION SUNDAY



GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP AND AWARENESS

One: Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

All: Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when the wheat falls to the ground and new life comes forth; a reminder of the new covenant in Christ.

One: Lent calls us to take upon ourselves as a faith community the intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us.

All: Lent calls us to corporate penitence, accountability, and preparation.

One: Lent calls us to revisit our covenants with God.

All: Lent calls us to face the darkness, but all the time knowing that we have the Light of Christ with us.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #403

In Remembrance of Me

1 In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine. In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too. That this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you. In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love. In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart look for God. Do this in remembrance of me.

Ragan Courtney, 1972, Buryl Red, 1972; arr. Robert F. Douglas © 1972 Broadman Press, assigned to Van Ness Press, Inc. // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, we do not always walk well with you. At times, we fall into chasms, which separate us from you, from one another, and from ourselves. Sometimes, we attempt to stabilize our journey without the Light of Christ. Sometimes we forget that you are always with us. We ask that you help us look inward and draw out what is not working for us so that we may grow in your Wisdom. We need the strength and assurance of your grace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

(A Paraphrase of Romans 8:38-39)

Pastor: We have this assurance that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

duet Penny Gates and Nora Chapman
The Gift of Love

UNISON HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17 (NLT)

⁸ Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹ “I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never

again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

¹² Then God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. ¹³ I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. ¹⁴ When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵ and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. ¹⁶ When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.” ¹⁷ Then God said to Noah, “Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22 (NLT)

¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

¹⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— ²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Move AWAY from the Superficial”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

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.

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.).

READING OF PSALM 25:1-10

¹ O LORD, I give my life to you.

² I trust in you, my God!

Do not let me be disgraced,
or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.

³ No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced,
but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.

⁴ Show me the right path, O LORD;
point out the road for me to follow.

⁵ Lead me by your truth and teach me,
for you are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in you.

⁶ Remember, O LORD, your compassion and unfailing love,
which you have shown from long ages past.

⁷ Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.
Remember me in the light of your unfailing love,
for you are merciful, O LORD.

⁸ The LORD is good and does what is right;
he shows the proper path to those who go astray.

⁹ He leads the humble in doing right,
teaching them his way.

¹⁰ The LORD leads with unfailing love and faithfulness
all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Take and eat. This Bread of Life is given for all who desire it.

(All may eat of the Bread.)

Take and drink. This Cup of Blessing and Salvation is given
for all who desire it.

(All may drink of the Cup.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All: Holy God, we thank you for your presence in the
simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.**

**Thank you for the many gifts we have received
through Christ, and for the invitation to richly
bless others in his name. Amen.**

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #180

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*1 Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and
pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins
and close by you to stay.*

*2 As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.*

*3 And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your passiontide,
forevermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.*

Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873, alt. Adapt. From John Day's *English Psalter*, 1562 //
CCLI #1326969

BENEDICTION


This morning's Lay Reader is: Cassie Soucy