

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

February 28, 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



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP AND AWARENESS

One: We are on a journey of faith.

All: We travel with Jesus Christ as our guide.

One: The promises of God shine like a star before us
and give us strength for the journey;

**All: But still, in the wilderness, we become impatient
and rebellious and lose our way.**

One: We seek to be fed by the manna of God's Word,
and to rediscover God's Right Way for Living.

**All: O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light
to our path. Glory be to you in Jesus Christ
and in the church to all generations. Amen.**

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #585

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to
bear!*

*What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we
bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.*

2 *Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!*

Joseph Scriven, 1855; Charles C. Converse, 1868 // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Compassion and Mercy, we confess that too often our faith is weak in the face of crisis. Our hope collapses when we are threatened or maligned. We see to our own safety and abandon others who are also your beloved children. Sometimes, we trust in objects we can create and control rather than trusting in you. We speak too much and risk too little! We know that you have given your Word never to forsake us. Forgive our failure when we do not take you at your Word. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: God's promises are guaranteed to all who believe in Christ. God said, "I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations." We can trust in the promises given from God's graciousness and accept the righteousness of God given in Christ. We are forgiven! Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Rev. Joanne Myer ~ solo

Go Down Moses

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NLT)

¹⁷ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. ² I will make a covenant with

you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants.”

³ At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, ⁴ “This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! ⁵ What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

⁷ “I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

¹⁵ Then God said to Abraham, “Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

UNISON PSALM READING

Psalm 22:23-31 (The Message Bible)

Here’s the story I’ll tell my friends when they come to worship,

and punctuate it with Hallelujahs:

Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers;

give glory, you sons of Jacob;

adore him, you daughters of Israel.

He has never let you down,

never looked the other way

when you were being kicked around.
He has never wandered off to do his own thing;
he has been right there, listening.
Here in this great gathering for worship
I have discovered this praise-life.
And I'll do what I promised right here
in front of the God-worshippers.
Down-and-outers sit at GOD's table
and eat their fill.
Everyone on the hunt for God
is here, praising him.
"Live it up, from head to toe.
Don't ever quit!"
From the four corners of the earth
people are coming to their senses,
are running back to GOD.
Long-lost families
are falling on their faces before him.
GOD has taken charge;
from now on he has the last word.
All the power-mongers are before him
—worshiping!
All the poor and powerless, too
—worshiping!
Along with those who never got it together
—worshiping!
Our children and their children
will get in on this
As the word is passed along
from parent to child.
Babies not yet conceived

**will hear the good news—
that God does what he says.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:31-38 (NLT)

³¹ Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

³³ Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“The Covenant Continues...”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Sharing whatever is in our heart with God is a blessed gift! It does not matter what it is that we have done or what it is that is bothering us. God is always listening and God, whose love for us is pure, unconditional, and indescribable, will answer. All God asks of us is to trust and take time to listen for the answer.

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 #560

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 *What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]*

[Refrain:]

*Leaning (leaning on Jesus), leaning (leaning on Jesus),
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning (leaning on Jesus), leaning (leaning on Jesus),
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]*

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; Anthony J. Showalter, 1887 // CCLI #1326969

UNISON BENEDICTION

God gives life! God renews life! God is life!

**We will celebrate the life within us and
let it overflow to enlighten the world.**

Amen.



This morning's Lay Reader is: Joy Cloukey

