

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

March 7, 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



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

COMMUNION SUNDAY

CELEBRATING GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP AND AWARENESS

One: No matter where we are, we have gathered as the Body of Christ in the presence of God, who is love.

All: We have gathered in the shadow of the cross, the cross being a sign of God's love.

One: Let us give thanks for the compassion of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

All: We will pray and sing, praising God with hearts and hands and voices. Amen.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #621

"Are Ye Able," Said the Master

1 *"Are ye able," said the Master,
"to be crucified with me?"
"Yea," the sturdy dreamers answered,
"to the death we follow thee." [Refrain]*

[Refrain:]

*"Lord, we are able." Our spirits are thine.
Remold them, make us, like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be
a beacon to God, to love, and loyalty.*

2 *"Are ye able" to remember,
when a thief lifts up his eyes,
that his pardoned soul is worthy
of a place in paradise? [Refrain]*

Earl Marlatt, 1926; Harry S. Mason, 1924 // CCLI #1326969

A LITANY OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

One: For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

All: May Christ give us the light, that we may awaken to his truth.

One: Walk as children of light as you pursue what is good, right, and true.

All: May Christ give us the light, that we may awaken to his truth.

One: Take no part in works of darkness but try to learn what is pleasing to God.

All: May Christ give us the light, that we may awaken to his truth.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: The apostle Paul declared that if the Spirit of God dwells in us, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies through God's Spirit which dwells in us. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. Believe this word of promise and walk in newness of life.



GIRL SCOUT CELEBRATION SUNDAY

ENGAGING THE WORD

UNISON PSALM READING Psalm 19:1-10, 14 (NLT)

¹The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship.

²Day after day they continue to speak;

night after night they make him known.

³ They speak without a sound or word;
their voice is never heard.

⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,
and their words to all the world.

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun.

⁵ It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding.
It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.

⁶ The sun rises at one end of the heavens
and follows its course to the other end.
Nothing can hide from its heat.

⁷ The instructions of the LORD are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The commandments of the LORD are right,
bringing joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are clear,
giving insight for living.

⁹ Reverence for the LORD is pure,
lasting forever.

The laws of the LORD are true;
each one is fair.

¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold,
even the finest gold.

They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the comb.

¹⁴ May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart

be pleasing to you,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

ANTHEM

Sue and Tom Mason ~ duet
Kum Bah Yah

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:1-17 (NLT)

20 Then God gave the people all these instructions:

2 “I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

3 “You must not have any other god but me.

4 “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. **5** You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. **6** But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those^[b] who love me and obey my commands.

7 “You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

8 “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **9** You have six days each week for your ordinary work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. **11** For in six days the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything

in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

¹² “Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You must not murder.

¹⁴ “You must not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You must not steal.

¹⁶ “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You must not covet your neighbor’s house. You must not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL LESSON

John 2:13-22 (NLT)

¹³ It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money. ¹⁵ Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers’ coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. ¹⁶ Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, “Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace!”

¹⁷ Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: “Passion for God’s house will consume me.”

¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders demanded, “What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.”

¹⁹ “All right,” Jesus replied. “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

²⁰ “What!” they exclaimed. “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?” ²¹ But when Jesus said “this temple,” he meant his own body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Seeing in the Light of the Resurrection”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Number 262 in our Chalice Hymnal was written by Irenaeus, a second century theologian.

You Are the Work of God

It is not you who shape God;
it is God that shapes you.
If then you are the work of God,
await the hand of the Artist
who does all things in due season.
Offer the Potter your heart,
soft and tractable,
and keep the form in which

the Artist has fashioned you.
Let your clay be moist,
lest you grow hard and lose
the imprint of the Potter's fingers.

CCLI #1326969

I ask you to keep these words in mind as we observe a time of virtual silence together in whatever sacred space we find ourselves.

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.).

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

If you wish to, at this time, you may hold your hands over your bread and your cup while God consecrates our elements.

Dear God, we ask you to consecrate our gifts of bread and the cup, and to bless us with the presence of your Holy Spirit, that we may come to know you more fully, and to live as one body in Christ.

We know that coming to this table is a blessing and a celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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 #277

Christians, We Have Met to Worship

1 *Christians, we have met to worship
and adore the living God;
will you pray with all your power,
while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
of the Holy One comes down;
Christians, pray, and holy manna
will be showered all around.*

3 *Let us love our God supremely,
let us love each other, too;
let us pray for all earth's people
till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven,
at the table we'll sit down;
Christ will welcome us and serve us
living manna all around.*

Attr. George Atkins (19th century); alt. William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825 //
CCLI #1326969

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go gladly into the world. Be filled with the love of God.
Dance to the song of the Spirit. Befriend the Christ in each new
day. Amen.



This morning's Lay Reader is: Alice Sprowles

