

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

March 14, 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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



GATHERING FOR THE WORD

WELCOME

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

All: ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!

His faithful love endures forever.

² Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out!

Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

³ For he has gathered the exiles from many lands,

from east and west,

from north and south.

¹⁷ Some were fools; they rebelled

and suffered for their sins.

¹⁸ They couldn't stand the thought of food,

and they were knocking on death's door.

¹⁹ "LORD, help!" they cried in their trouble,

and he saved them from their distress.

²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them,

snatching them from the door of death.

²¹ Let them praise the LORD for his great love

and for the wonderful things he has done for them.

²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving

and sing joyfully about his glorious acts.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #566

Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Trust in your God, your savior and your guide,

who through all changes faithful will remain.

*Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.*

*2 Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.*

*Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.*

*Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know
the voice that calmed them in this world below.*

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855, alt. Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933 Arr. © 1933, renewed 1961, Presbyterian Board of Christian Education // CCLI #1326969

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” We are not always that willing to love one another, especially when others have wronged us for whatever reasons. We hold grudges rather than confront our aggressors. We talk *about* them rather than *to* them. Forgive our reluctance to humble ourselves and please wash us anew with the waters of new life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Pastor: Know that God is rich in mercy. When we do not follow God’s Right Way for Living – righteousness – our lives are not as satisfying as they should be. We know there is “something missing.” However, when we confess that we have strayed, God’s great love for us makes us alive and joyous through Jesus, the Christ. We are saved by God’s graciousness. God wants us to live in the assurance that by confessing our

waywardness, through Christ's intercession on our behalf, we are forgiven. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Garech's Wedding
Recorder Quartet

Anna Carroll ~ Dennis Carroll ~ Robin Miller ~ Esther Pezzella

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE Numbers 21:4-9 (NLT)

⁴Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea^[a] to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey, ⁵and they began to speak against God and Moses. "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" they complained. "There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!"

⁶So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. ⁷Then the people came to Moses and cried out, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take away the snakes." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸Then the LORD told him, "Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!" ⁹So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:14-21 (NLT)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Love is an Action”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

In 1926 Daniel Iverson put this prayer to music (Chalice Hymnal #259):

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

Copyright 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music, a div. of The Sparrow Corp. // CCLI#1326969

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 #546

Amazing Grace!

*1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

*3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900 // CCLI #1326969

BENEDICTION

Chalice Hymnal #712

May the strength of God pilot us.

May the power of God preserve us.

May the wisdom of God instruct us.

May the hand of God protect us, this day and evermore.

Patrick, 5th century English missionary in Ireland //CCLI#1326969



This morning's Lay Reader is: Chas Gross