

# ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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**March 21, 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



## **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**



## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The old passes away; the new emerges.

**All: The grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies.**

One: From it springs the stalk that in time produces much fruit.

**All: We will not cling to old ways that hinder our ability to realize the hope of the gospel.**

One: Rather, let what we glean from the past lead to fresh insights, so that we are able to mature in faith.

**All: We are eager and blessed to worship God!**

### HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #610

#### *Living for Jesus*

*1 Living for Jesus a life that is true,  
striving to please him in all that I do;  
yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,  
this is the pathway of blessing for me. [Refrain]*

[Refrain:] *O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee;  
for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me;  
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne;  
my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.*

*2 Living for Jesus who died in my place,  
bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace;  
such love constrains me to answer his call,  
follow his leading, and give him my all. [Refrain]*

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1917; C. Harold Lowden, 1915 © 1917 Heidelberg Press, renewed 1945

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of Generous Forgiveness, we pray for new life as we confess our old ways that sometimes had us stray from your *Right Way for Living*. We hear of your promise amid our own sense of self-doubt. Hope is proclaimed, yet we seek guarantees. Christ calls us to obedience, but we sometimes want to bargain and set conditions. When called on to follow, we ask to what end. We applaud commitment but we treasure our comfort. Help us to look inward and grasp the depths of our faith as we journey toward the Easter cross. Loving God, we ask you to forgive our reluctance to walk in newness of life. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

Pastor: Although he was human like us, Jesus “learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.” Today, as we come before God confessing our sins, Jesus the high priest is our source of forgiveness. We can be sure that we are forgiven!

## **ENGAGING THE WORD**

### **ANTHEM**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HEBREW BIBLE SCRIPTURE**      Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NLT)

<sup>31</sup> “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>32</sup> This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD.

<sup>33</sup> “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup> And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’ For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already,” says the LORD. “And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”

**UNISON PSALM READING**      Psalm 119:9-16 (NLT)

**<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay pure?**

**By obeying your word.**

**<sup>10</sup> I have tried hard to find you—**

**don’t let me wander from your commands.**

**<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart,**

**that I might not sin against you.**

**<sup>12</sup> I praise you, O LORD;**

**teach me your decrees.**

**<sup>13</sup> I have recited aloud**

**all the regulations you have given us.**

**<sup>14</sup> I have rejoiced in your laws**

**as much as in riches.**

**<sup>15</sup> I will study your commandments**

**and reflect on your ways.**

**<sup>16</sup> I will delight in your decrees  
and not forget your word.**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

John 12:20-36 (NLT)

<sup>20</sup> Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration <sup>21</sup> paid a visit to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee. They said, “Sir, we want to meet Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip told Andrew about it, and they went together to ask Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man<sup>[a]</sup> to enter into his glory. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. <sup>26</sup> Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

<sup>27</sup> “Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! <sup>28</sup> Father, bring glory to your name.”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” <sup>29</sup> When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And when I am lifted

up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”<sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

<sup>34</sup> The crowd responded, “We understood from Scripture<sup>[b]</sup> that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?”

<sup>35</sup> Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. <sup>36</sup> Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.”

After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Joanne Myer

“A Redefinition”

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

*God sent us Jesus, the Christ, in whom lies God’s promise that all things will be made new. We have been assured that we may come before God in prayer and God will meet us as we call God’s name. Our lifeline, indeed.*

#### **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 #517

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.*

*4 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Charles Wesley, 1743; John Zundel, 1870 // CCLI #1326969

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: This week, let us give thanks for God's blessings.  
Let us pray to God and give praise to God.  
Let us glory in God's perfect love. Amen.

