

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

April 4, 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



EASTER SUNDAY



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ has risen.

All: Christ has risen indeed.

One: God is alive ...

All: New birth is given.

One: Hope is alive ...

All: A new age is dawning.

One: Joy is alive ...

All: Redemption is here.

One: Love is alive ...

All: Death cannot harm us.

One: We are alive ...

All: New life is within us.

One: The church is alive ...

All: God's spirit is within us.

God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

God of resurrection, we are here to celebrate you.

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HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #216

Senior Handbell Choir Accompaniment

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

¹ *Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*

² *Lives again our glorious king; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; desc. Charles H. Webb Desc. © 1965
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Dear God, creator of the heavens and maker of each small thing: what a wondrous universe you have spread before us. Each day overflows with the richness of life: with growing green and bursting blossoms, with relationships which nurture and challenge, with missions accomplished and justice to be done. Each day is full of your meaning. And yet many times we do not see this. With much around us to be done, we complain of boredom. Or we are so busy, we lose track of your presence and calling. Too often, we scurry here and there without appreciation, delight, or much sense of purpose. Call us, O God, out of emotional poverty into

the richness of life lived in love. We ask that you move us toward you and one another. Amen.

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: God never abandons us! In the resurrection, we are not only promised eternal life with God, but also the assurance that we can have an intimate relationship with God every day of our lives. Just as springtime blossoms forth, we are also promised new life in Christ Jesus. Because of God's graciousness, we may have the gift of renewal and transformation whenever we ask God in prayer. A wonderful blessing indeed. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Handbell Choir

Jubilant Fanfare

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Acts 10:34-43 (NLT)

³⁴ Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. ³⁵ In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. ³⁶ This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel — that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. ³⁸ And

you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ “And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all – the living and the dead. ⁴³ He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:1-18 (NLT)

20 Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ² She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴ They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he

didn't go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. ⁸ Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed — ⁹ for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then they went home.

¹¹ Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her.

"Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴ She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. ¹⁵ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

¹⁶ "Mary!" Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").

17 “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“A Well-Known Wonder”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

As Psalm 118 proclaims: *“This is the day the Lord has made,” therefore, “Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” God has given us so much – night and day, sun and rain, moon and stars, one another. Prayer will ease our burdens so that we **can** be genuinely happy for the dawning of each new day.*

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

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 #226

He Lives!

¹ I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever others say. I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near.

*[Refrain:] He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives?
He lives within my heart.*

³ Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find; none other is so loving, so good and kind. [Refrain:]

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BENEDICTION (responsive)

One: Burst forth from the cocoons which enslave you!

All: **We will fly free as the butterfly.**

One: In that freedom ... go in peace; go in joy; go in love.
Christ has Risen!

All: **Christ has risen indeed!**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Handel

Hallelujah Chorus

Duane Carroll ~ Handbell solo



