

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

April 11, 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 OF EASTER CELEBRATION OF CHURCH WOMEN



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Reading of Psalm 133 (NIV)

All: ¹ How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!

² It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.

³ It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

Let us worship God!

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #686

Of Women, and of Women's Hopes We Sing

¹ *Of women, and of women's hopes we sing:
of sharing in creation's nurturing,
of bearing and of birthing new belief,
of passion for the promises of life.*

⁴ *Forgiving what is past, we seek the new:
a finer justice, and a peace more true,
the promise of empowering for our day
when men and women roll the stone away.*

Shirley Erena Murray, 1988, Alfred Morton Smith 1941 Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Co. //
CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Eternal Love, we confess that sometimes we have a lack of faith. Although we call you the God of hope, we often feel lost, cynical, and without hope. The world is so full of big nails and small nails – people are put on many kinds of crosses in so many different places that we wonder if there can ever be enough resurrections. We are reluctant to leave the tomb of our own ignorance and fear to claim the promise. We confess that our weaknesses and insensitivities stand in the way of new life in the world. We know that the world is full of suffering. Our brothers and sisters are nailed to crosses of poverty and injustice. People close enough to touch are sealed in tombs of loneliness and despair. But we fail to halt their crucifixion and to roll away the stone. Help us to live into the new life, hope, and freedom that your resurrection brings to us. We ask for forgiveness that will begin our new life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Remember, we are chosen by Christ Jesus who joins us to God in an intimate relationship. Because of the Resurrection, we are presented to God as holy and blameless. We will continue in faithfulness, remain steadfast, and will examine and learn from the lessons of Scripture. In Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

CELEBRATING CHURCH WOMEN

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Junior Handbell Choir

A Simple Celebration

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:32-35 (NLT)

³² All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. ³³ The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. ³⁴ There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them ³⁵ and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-31 (NLT)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. ²⁰ As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ²¹ Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. ²⁵ They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

²⁸ “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

Purpose of the Book

³⁰ The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Regard Every Sunday as a Mini-Easter!(?)”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day, with its shadow o'er me. This
beautiful hymn from our Chalice Hymnal reminds us that Jesus'
Resurrection brings us unconditional love and hope from God.
The Resurrection empowers us to have an intimate relationship
with God through prayer. When we pray, God will listen!*

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869; MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1869 // 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 #548

The Old Rugged Cross

¹ *On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

[Refrain:] *So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

³ *In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see, for 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain:]*

George Bennard, 1913 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Go from here in awe of the wonder of the cross.

**All: We will let the glory of the Resurrection shine
through in all that we do.**

One: Go in peace! Go in joy! Go in love! Amen.

