

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

April 18, 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 OF EASTER CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The mountain brook surges with rushing waters while the eagle perches above in a lofty tree.

All: We will enjoy the waving fields of wheat and barley, and the juicy fruit from the apple trees. We will work in partnership with God as stewards of the earth.

One: White-tailed deer romp in the glades and forests; rabbits peek from clumps of grass.

All: Earth is good; God's Word proclaimed it. Save us, God, from wasteful living, and from pollution's tragedy.

One: Keep us faithful in the struggle to conserve earth's storehouse of resources.

All: Beauty is all around us! We sing for joy as we seek to preserve earth's splendor for future generations. Let us worship God and care for all creation! Amen.

Adapted from Chalice Hymnal: Mountain Brook with Rushing Waters WORDS: Wm. W. Reid, Jr., 1973, MUSIC: Wm. Rowlands, 1905 // CCLI#1326969

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #696

For Beauty of Meadows

¹ *For beauty of meadows, for grandeur of trees, for flowers of wood-lands, for creatures of seas, for all you created and gave us to share, we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.*

² *As stewards of beauty received at your hand, as creatures who hear your most urgent command, we turn from our wasteful destruction of life, confessing our failures, confessing our strife.*

³ *Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace; all nature around us is ours but on lease; your name we would hallow in all that we do, fulfilling our calling, creating with you.*

WORDS: Walter H. Farquharson, 1969 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody Words © 1971 Walter Farquharson // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Forgive us, Creator God, if we have taken the gift of life and the gifts of creation for granted. We are sorry that we have not shared with others or have not given thanks as we ought to have done. We forget that the good things of our lives are gifts and blessings from you rather than rewards we have earned. Help us to put our lives in order, so that we will be worthy to share in the bounty of your domain. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God says to us, you are my chosen ones. I love you. I am proud of you. Stand firm in your renewed Resurrection commitment. Know that I have forgiven you; I call you by name; you are mine. I have entered in covenant with you and will stand by you in all times and all places. Dare to live fully the life to which I have called you! Amen.

CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY

Psalm 65:5-13

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Bach

Arioso

Esther Pezzella ~ organ solo

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Acts 3:12-19 (NLT)

¹² Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. “People of Israel,” he said, “what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? ¹³ For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate’s decision to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

¹⁶ “Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.

¹⁷ “Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. ¹⁸ But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. ¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

3 See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. **2** Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. **3** And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. **5** And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. **6** Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.

7 Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

"A Link with the Old, Old Story"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #57

Feast of a Hundred Hills

I enjoyed the feast of a hundred hills, all lying in the quietude of the infinite, who had formed them a feature of his own power.

For a moment I retreated to the back of the mountain, that I might enjoy the sweets of solitude, that I might hold converse for a moment with the great sentiment of power that impressed itself on the surrounding scene. With the multitude of hills lying all around me, I could not but lift up my hat as being in the presence of God.

Walter Scott, 19th century Disciples frontier evangelist // 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 #602

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

² *Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.*

³ *Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer
company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

WORDS: Washington Gladden, 1879 MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874 // CCLI
#1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Every day enjoy the beauty of creation. Sing along with
the bird's melodies!

All: **Earth is good! We will strive every day to be aware
of God's gifts and blessings to us. We will be caring
stewards in partnership with God. Amen.**

