

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

April 25, 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 OF EASTER

CELEBRATION OF CHURCH WOMEN PART II



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

All:

¹ **The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures;**

he leads me beside still waters;

³ **he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

⁵ **You prepare a table before me**

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

Let us worship God!

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

¹ *Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast bought us, thine we are.*

³ *Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
thou hast loved us, love us still.*

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859 // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Love, Peace, and Justice, we long to find peace of Spirit amid life's struggles. We desire harmony in our families, in our faith community, and in all our relationships. We pray for the day when each family everywhere might live in peace without fear and enjoy the fruits of your blessings. We pray for the day when there will be ecumenical and interfaith peace. Yet we confess that, sometimes we are not willing to take the risks and make the

sacrifices which peace requires. We ask that you look upon us with kindness and mercy. Please rule in our hearts and in our world and help us to follow your “Right Way for Living” as demonstrated for us by Jesus, the Christ. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God of Infinite Love, every day you give us more blessings than we can count and we are grateful. The greatest blessing you gave to us was your Son, Jesus, the Christ. He is the source of healing, the giver of wholeness, and brought the Light from you that illumines our hearts and souls. Because of Jesus, the Christ and his sacrifice, our sins have been and are forgiven! We give you thanks. Amen.

CELEBRATING CHURCH WOMEN: PART II

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Canon in D

Dave Robert ~ violin solo

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:5-12 (NLT)

⁵ The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. ⁷ They brought in the two

disciples and demanded, “By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?”

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of our people, ⁹ are we being questioned today because we’ve done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? ¹⁰ Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says,

‘The stone that you builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.’

¹² There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:11-18 (NLT)

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. He will abandon the sheep because they don’t belong to him and he isn’t their shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he’s working only for the money and doesn’t really care about the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, ¹⁵ just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will

listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.

¹⁷“The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. ¹⁸No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Who Knew First?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

*We are thine; do thou befriend us; be the guardian of our way;
Keep thy flock; from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear thy children when we pray.*

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836; WORDS: William B. Bradbury, 1859 // 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 #545

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

¹ *He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

[Refrain:]

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.*

² *Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis thy hand that leadeth me. [Refrain]*

WORDS: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1864 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: God's hand will lead us through this week and beyond.

All: We will be God's faithful followers in discipleship!

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

