

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

May 9, 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.*

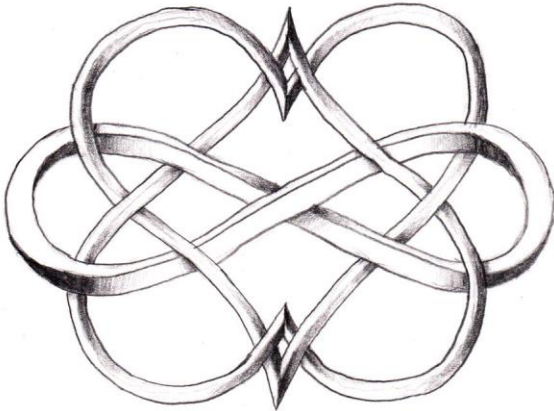
Adopted September 15, 2019



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY:

CELEBRATING NURTURING WOMEN



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 98

One: Let us sing a new song to God, for God has done marvelous things for us.

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of God.

One: Make a joyful noise to God, creator of the earth.

All: We will break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

One: Make a joyful noise to God who reigns over God's creation.

All: We will make melodies with the lyre, with trumpets, and with the sound of the horn.

One: The hills will sing together for joy at the presence of God who is coming to evaluate the earth.

All: God will evaluate the world with righteousness, and the people with equity. We will sing a new song to God who has done such marvelous things for us. Let us worship God!

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #585

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

¹ *What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,*

*oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.*

² *Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868 // CCLI#1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God, Maker of both the smallest that exists and the largest that exists, you have spread a wondrous universe before us to care for and explore. 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. Every day is full of your meaning. And yet, many times we do not see this. We complain of boredom when there is so much around us that we could be doing. Or we are so busy that we lose track of your presence and calling. Too often we scurry here and there without appreciation, delight, or much sense of purpose. We ask that you call us out of emotional poverty into the richness of life lived in love. Please move us toward you, Loving God, and toward one another in nurturing love and peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The Good News in Christ Jesus is that God offers us life at every moment, forgiving us and inviting us into the freshness of new beginnings. Let us continue to praise our God of nurture, graciousness, and love. Amen.

CELEBRATING NURTURING WOMEN

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Junior Handbell Choir

Morning Glory

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Acts 10:44-48 (NLT)

⁴⁴ Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God.

Then Peter asked, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" ⁴⁸ So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:9-17 (NLT)

⁹ “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. ¹³ There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. ¹⁶ You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Jesus: Savior, Teacher, Preacher, Healer, Example, FRIEND”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

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 #6

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

¹ *Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!*

² *Our God is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band;
to God all praise and glory!*

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt. MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's *Kirchengesänge*, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: God's love will uphold us every day.

All: God will be with us until we meet again.

One: God's care will enfold us.

All: God will be with us until we meet again.

One: Go forward in peace! Go forward in joy! Go forward in love! Go forward in discipleship!

All: Amen.

