

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

June 6, 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 AFTER PENTECOST SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION OF OUR GRADUATES



WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are a covenant community, gathered as individuals with the common experience of being called by God.

All: We have been called by God and are given a purpose in the world.

One: Our covenant community is exemplified by a common loyalty to God.

All: We have a shared sense of purpose for the world.

One: We are related to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

All: We are part of the body of Christ. Let us worship God through Jesus, the Christ!

HYMN

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!*

⁴ *Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own God's power proclaim
around the wondrous story!*

*Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone;
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

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God, from the beginning of time you have called us, your children, into communion with you. Yet we have turned to our own ways and refused your love and graciousness. We ask that you restore us to the joy of keeping you at the center of our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God's love is boundless, but it is also an intimate and unconditional love which touches us in all parts of our lives. We can be assured that God's love is present for us in the caring of this faith community. Even though we might stray, God always remains in communion with us. We are freed to live in the freshness of each new day. We are forgiven! Amen.

READING OF PSALM 138

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with all my heart;

I will sing your praises before the gods.

² I bow before your holy Temple as I worship.

I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness;
for your promises are backed

by all the honor of your name.

³ As soon as I pray, you answer me;

you encourage me by giving me strength.

- ⁴ Every king in all the earth will thank you, LORD,
for all of them will hear your words.
- ⁵ Yes, they will sing about the LORD's ways,
for the glory of the LORD is very great.
- ⁶ Though the LORD is great, he cares for the humble,
but he keeps his distance from the proud.
- ⁷ Though I am surrounded by troubles,
you will protect me from the anger of my enemies.
You reach out your hand,
and the power of your right hand saves me.
- ⁸ The LORD will work out his plans for my life—
for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever.
Don't abandon me, for you made me.

CELEBRATION OF OUR GRADUATES

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Spirit Song

Patti Hany and Rob Wallace ~ duet

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 3:20-25 (NLT)

²⁰ One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. ²¹ When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

²² But the teachers of religious law who had arrived from Jerusalem said, “He’s possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That’s where he gets the power to cast out demons.”

²³ Jesus called them over and responded with an illustration. “How can Satan cast out Satan?” he asked. ²⁴ “A kingdom divided by civil war will collapse. ²⁵ Similarly, a family splintered by feuding will fall apart.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 8:1-22 (MSG)

8 ¹⁻³ When Samuel got to be an old man, he set his sons up as judges in Israel. His firstborn son was named Joel, the name of his second, Abijah. They were assigned duty in Beersheba. But his sons didn’t take after him; they were out for what they could get for themselves, taking bribes, corrupting justice.

⁴⁻⁵ Fed up, all the elders of Israel got together and confronted Samuel at Ramah. They presented their case: “Look, you’re an old man, and your sons aren’t following in your footsteps. Here’s what we want you to do: Appoint a king to rule us, just like everybody else.”

⁶ When Samuel heard their demand—“Give us a king to rule us!”—he was crushed. How awful! Samuel prayed to GOD.

⁷⁻⁹ GOD answered Samuel, “Go ahead and do what they’re asking. They are not rejecting you. They’ve rejected me as their King. From the day I brought them out of Egypt until this very day they’ve been behaving like this, leaving me for other gods. And now they’re doing it to you. So let them have their own way. But warn them of what they’re in for. Tell them the way kings operate, just what they’re likely to get from a king.”

10-18 So Samuel told them, delivered GOD’s warning to the people who were asking him to give them a king. He said, “This is the way the kind of king you’re talking about operates. He’ll take your sons and make soldiers of them—chariotry, cavalry, infantry, regimented in battalions and squadrons. He’ll put some to forced labor on his farms, plowing and harvesting, and others to making either weapons of war or chariots in which he can ride in luxury. He’ll put your daughters to work as beauticians and waitresses and cooks. He’ll conscript your best fields, vineyards, and orchards and hand them over to his special friends. He’ll tax your harvests and vintage to support his extensive bureaucracy. Your prize workers and best animals he’ll take for his own use. He’ll lay a tax on your flocks and you’ll end up no better than slaves. The day will come when you will cry in desperation because of this king you so much want for yourselves. But don’t expect GOD to answer.”

19-20 But the people wouldn’t listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We will have a king to rule us! Then we’ll be just like all the other nations. Our king will rule us and lead us and fight our battles.”

21-22 Samuel took in what they said and rehearsed it with GOD. GOD told Samuel, “Do what they say. Make them a king.”

Then Samuel dismissed the men of Israel: “Go home, each of you to your own city.”

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Restless and Dissatisfied”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #614

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

³ *I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anytime and anywhere.*

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anytime and anywhere.*

WORDS: African-American spiritual MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Bill Thomas,
1994 Arr. © 1995 Chalice Press // 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.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Chalice Hymnal #425

Let Us Break Bread Together

¹ *Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)*

[Refrain:]

*When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)*

² *Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)*
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees) [Refrain]

³ *Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)*
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)
[Refrain]

WORDS: African-American spiritual MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964; alt. Arr. © 1965 The United Methodist Publishing House // CCLI #1326969

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

Chalice Hymnal #388

Remember Me

*Upon the loaf and upon the cup of the Lord, in letters which
speak not to the eye, but to the heart of every disciple, is
inscribed, “When this you see, remember me.” Indeed, the Lord
says to each disciple, when he receives the symbols into his
hand, “This is my body broken for you.” The loaf is thus
constituted a representation of his body – first whole, then
wounded for our sins. The cup is thus instituted a
representation of his blood – once his life, but now poured out
to cleanse us from our sins.*

Alexander Campbell, 19th-century Disciples forebear // CCLI #1326969

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Eternal God of Love, we thank you for uniting us by baptism into the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips that have sung your praises may speak the truth. Grant that in the days ahead our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world. Grant that in the days ahead our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #614

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

¹ *I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.*

I'm gonna live so God can use me any time and anywhere.

² *I'm gonna work so God can use me any time and anywhere.*

I'm gonna work so God can use me any time and anywhere.

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RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Let us go out and do God's work in the world.

**All: We will take what we learn "in here" and use it
"out there" in the world around us.**

One: God, through Christ will be our guide!

**All: We will be builders of understanding and
architects for peace. Amen.**

