

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

June 13, 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 AFTER PENTECOST CELEBRATION OF CHURCH MEN



Thank you to Sarah Pashe for providing music for our service this morning while Esther Pezzella vacations.

WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is a blessing to have God's Word as a foundation for living the way God wants us to live.

All: **We look to God through Christ Jesus' example to help us keep God's Word.**

One: Though there are powers in the world that would tempt us and draw us away from God, we will stand firm on God's Word.

All: **We will strive never to forsake God, the One who gave us life. Let us worship God!**

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #618

How Firm a Foundation

¹ *"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you God has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"*

⁵ *The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"*

WORDS: John Rippen's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. MUSIC: Traditional American melody
// CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Compassionate and Merciful God, we confess that we sometimes ignore our responsibilities to you and to humanity. We realize that at times, we interfere with the rights of others while proclaiming our own rights, and we ask for forgiveness. If ever we sit by on the sidelines, doing nothing, but criticizing those who do, we ask for your forgiveness. When our example and actions are not according to your Word, we ask for forgiveness. We ask that you keep us whole in body, mind, soul, and spirit so that we may help the world with your hope, love, compassion, justice, and graciousness. We pray this through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God's Word is a Word of forgiveness, a Word of assurance, and a Word of graciousness. We are loved and accepted because as God's children, we are of God. We have sparks of the Divine within us. Nothing can separate us from our Creator and Sustainer. In God through Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF CHURCH MEN

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Sarah Pashe ~ piano solo

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (NLT)

16 Now the LORD said to Samuel, “You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.”

2 But Samuel asked, “How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”

“Take a heifer with you,” the LORD replied, “and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD. **3** Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me.”

4 So Samuel did as the LORD instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. “What’s wrong?” they asked. “Do you come in peace?”

5 “Yes,” Samuel replied. “I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.

6 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the LORD’s anointed!”

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

8 Then Jesse told his son Abinadab to step forward and walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “This is not the one

the LORD has chosen.”⁹ Next Jesse summoned Shimea, but Samuel said, “Neither is this the one the LORD has chosen.”¹⁰ In the same way all seven of Jesse’s sons were presented to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Then Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse replied. “But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats.”

“Send for him at once,” Samuel said. “We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.”

¹² So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes.

And the LORD said, “This is the one; anoint him.”

¹³ So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Mark 4:26-34 (NLT)

Parable of the Growing Seed

²⁶ Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. ²⁸ The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. ²⁹ And as soon as

the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”

Parable of the Mustard Seed

³⁰ Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, ³² but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”

³³ Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. ³⁴ In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

MESSAGE

Rev. Joanne Myer

“Ragged, Messy, Broken Choices/Courage and Idealism”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #578

I Need Thee Every Hour

Refrain *I need thee, oh, I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to thee.*

WORDS: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; refrain, Robert Lowry, 1872 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1872 // 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 #24

The God of Abraham Praise

¹ *The God of Abraham praise.*

*All praised be the Name,
who was and is and is to be,
is still the same;
the one eternal God,
ere all that now appears;
the First, the Last, beyond all thought
through timeless years!*

³ *God has eternal life
implanted in the soul.*

*God's love shall be our strength and stay,
while ages roll.*

*Praise to the living God!
All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be,
is still the same!*

WORDS: Daniel ben Judah (14th century); tr. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1885; alt.
MUSIC: Hebrew melody, transcribed by Meyer Leoni c. 1770 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Let us go out and praise God's name in our neighborhoods and beyond.

All: We will praise the Eternal God with joy and thanksgiving.

One: God is still speaking and writes his Word on our hearts.

**All: God's love will be our strength now and forever.
Amen.**

