

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

September 5, 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



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LAY LED BY CASSIE MILLER

WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9 (NLT)

All:

**22 Choose a good reputation over great riches;
being held in high esteem is better than silver or gold.**

² The rich and poor have this in common:

The LORD made them both.

**⁸ Those who plant injustice will harvest disaster,
and their reign of terror will come to an end.**

**⁹ Blessed are those who are generous,
because they feed the poor. Amen.**

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #62

Creator God, Creating Still

*¹ Creator God, creating still, by will and word and deed,
create a new humanity to meet the present need.*

*⁴ Great Trinity, for this new day we need your presence still.
Create, redeem, sustain us now to do your work and will.*

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1977 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708 Words © 1980 Jane Parker Huber // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalm 86:1-7, 12 (NLT)

**All: ¹ Bend down, O LORD, and hear my prayer;
answer me, for I need your help.**

**² Protect me, for I am devoted to you.
Save me, for I serve you and trust you.
You are my God.**

**³ Be merciful to me, O Lord,
for I am calling on you constantly.**

**⁴ Give me happiness, O Lord,
for I give myself to you.**

**⁵ O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive,
so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.**

**⁶ Listen closely to my prayer, O LORD;
hear my urgent cry.**

**⁷ I will call to you whenever I'm in trouble,
and you will answer me.**

**¹² With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God.
I will give glory to your name forever, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Cassie: For a leader reads the words of assurance, but they come only from God. For everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus for forgiveness, these words are true, and help assure us that we are really forgiven. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Chalice Hymnal #35

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever-shall be,
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.*

ENGAGING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Psalm 111:1-9 (NLT)

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will thank the LORD with all my heart
as I meet with his godly people.

² How amazing are the deeds of the LORD!

All who delight in him should ponder them.

³ Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.

His righteousness never fails.

⁴ He causes us to remember his wonderful works.

How gracious and merciful is our LORD!

⁵ He gives food to those who fear him;
he always remembers his covenant.
⁶ He has shown his great power to his people
by giving them the lands of other nations.
⁷ All he does is just and good,
and all his commandments are trustworthy.
⁸ They are forever true,
to be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.
⁹ He has paid a full ransom for his people.
He has guaranteed his covenant with them forever.
What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!

GOSPEL READING

Mark 7:24-30 (NLT)

²⁴ Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in, but he couldn't keep it a secret. ²⁵ Right away a woman who had heard about him came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, ²⁶ and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter.

Since she was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia, ²⁷ Jesus told her, "First I should feed the children—my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs."

²⁸ She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even the dogs under the table are allowed to eat the scraps from the children's plates."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Now go home, for the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰ And when she arrived home, she found her little girl lying quietly in bed, and the demon was gone.

“Finding a Worship Tool”

UNISON RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

Chalice Hymnal #470

When the Church of Jesus

¹ *When the church of Jesus shuts its outer door,
lest the roar of traffic drown the voice of prayer:
may our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more aware
that the world we banish is our Christian care.*

² *If our hearts are lifted where devotion soars
high above this hungry, suffering world of ours:
lest our hymns should drug us to forget its needs,
forge our Christian worship into Christian deeds.*

³ *Lest the gifts we offer, money, talents, time,
serve to salve our conscience, to our secret shame:
Lord, reprove, inspire us by the way you give;
teach us, dying Savior, how true Christians live.*

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1968 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925 Words © 1969 Hope Publishing Co.; music used by permission of Oxford University Press // CCLI #1326969

UNISON RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

Chalice Hymnal #1

Praising God of Many Names

¹ *O burning Mountain, O chosen Sun,
O perfect Moon, O fathomless Well,
O unattainable Height, O Clearness beyond measure,
O Wisdom without end, O Mercy without limit,*

*O Strength beyond resistance, O Crown beyond all majesty:
The humblest thing you created sings your praise.*

-Mechthild of Magdeburg, 13th-century Christian mystic and reformer // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE TO THE MESSAGE

Chalice Hymnal #759

Psalm 119:1-8

One: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of God.

All: Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart,

One: who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways.

All: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

One: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

All: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

One: I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

All: I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

Amy Grant (Ps. 119:105); Michael W. Smith; arr. Keith Phillips © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Co. (a div. of The Sparrow Corp.)/Bug & Bear Music; all rights reserved; international copyright secured; used by permission // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

Chalice Hymnal #468

Prayer of St. Francis

-attributed to Francis of Assisi, Italy, 13th century // CCLI #1326969

UNISON RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE

Chalice Hymnal #278

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

¹ *Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.*

*As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.*

² *Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
E'en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.*

³ *Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease.
Where, oh where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.*

WORDS: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1958; tr. Everett M. Stowe, 1958 MUSIC: Isao Koizumi, 1958
Tr. © 1958 The United Methodist Publishing House; music © 1958 JASRAC // CCLI
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RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chalice Hymnal #624

We Ask Not for Easy Lives

*O God, come to us, we pray thee,
with the resources of thy power,
that we may be strong within.*

*We ask not for easy lives,
but for adequacy.
We ask not to be freed from storms,
but to build our houses on rock that will not fall.
We pray not for a smooth sea, but for a stout ship,
a good compass, and a strong heart;
in the name of him who faced enmity and death
without flinching,
thy Son Jesus Christ our Savior.*

-Harry Emerson Fosdick, 20th-century American minister

From *A Book of Public Prayers* by Harry Emerson Fosdick; © 1959 by Harry Emerson Fosdick; reprinted by permission of Harper Collins Publishers, Inc. // CCLI #1326969

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.

VIRTUAL OFFERING

Sentence

DOXOLOGY

Chalice Hymnal #46

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #381

Take My Gifts

ALL: ³ *Take whatever I can offer--
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,
things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me..*

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988 MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1988 © 1992 Hope Publishing Co. // CCLI #1326969

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #715

Now Thank We All Our God

¹ *Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices,
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

³ *All praise and thanks to God
our Father and our Mother,
to Christ and to the One
who binds us to each other,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,*

*for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.*

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt. MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Chalice Hymnal #541

One: Creator God,

All: draw compassion from us.

One: Christ,

All: draw compassion from us.

One: Spirit God,

All: draw compassion from us.

-Hildegard of Bingen, 12th-century Benedictine abbess // CCLI #1326969

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Chalice Hymnal #434

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

*¹ God be with you till we meet a-gain;
lov-ing coun-sels guide, up-hold you,
with a shep-herd's care en-fold you:
God be with you till we meet a-gain.*



Many thanks to

Cassie Miller

for leading worship this morning.

CEB – Common English Bible
MSG – The Message
NLT – New Living Translation