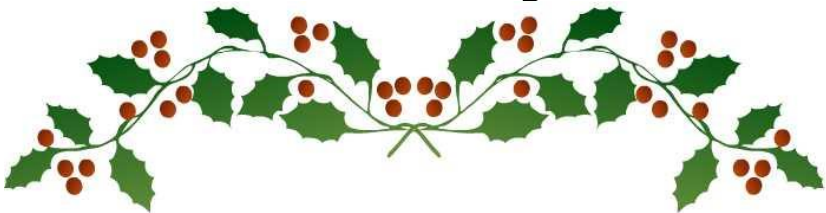




*Thanksgiving
Brings Blessings*

*Advent / Christmas
Brings
Hope, Love, Joy, Peace*



ORDER OF RECORDED WORSHIP

November 21, 2021

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to Worship *at the recorded 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



CHRIST THE KING / REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

FAMILY SERVICE: HANGING OF THE GREENS

MESSAGE: LOOKING TOWARD JESUS FOR

HOPE, LOVE, JOY AND PEACE

WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are blessed to celebrate the coming of the Advent season and the Holy Child by “Hanging the Greens.”

All: “Greening” the church reminds us of the eternal life God offers.

One: The Christmas wreaths on the front doors of the church welcome all our members, friends, and neighbors.

All: God’s “Circle of Love” includes everyone.

One: The candles that shine forth from the windows tell all who see them that Jesus is indeed the “Light of the World.”

All: Ellington Congregational Church will continue to be a “Beacon of Light and Hope” for generations to come.

One: This morning, from the youngest to the oldest, we will decorate this beautiful sacred space, sing, and praise the Lord with our worship!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #125

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

¹ *Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation,
come salvation to impart;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of many a longing heart.*

*² Born your people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.*

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906 // CCLI #1326969

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of births, deaths, flowering and ripening seasons, Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us: “For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.” As we prepare for this season of hope, peace, joy, and love, help us not to get too caught up in having everything we do agree with our ideas of perfection. Help us to understand that whenever you are involved in our lives, Our Dear God, all will be perfect because it will be done with your love in our hearts and souls. Many times we forget that you guide through everything! In the coming Advent season we ask that you aid us in focusing on the meaning of the season instead of the busyness of the season. Whenever we look at our beautifully decorated Sanctuary, let it be a reminder for us to love one another in agreement and accord. In that way, let us find unity in Christian hope, peace, joy, and love as a faith community. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: We are told in Scripture that the days are coming when God will raise up a Righteous Branch. This Righteous Branch will reign and deal wisely and will carry out justice in the land. We believe that Christ Jesus has come and performed all that was foretold by the prophets. This is our assurance that in Christ Jesus we are 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

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Pastor Joanne, Lee Carman and Julie LaRocca

PARAMENTS

(Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday)

John 18:33-37

³³ Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him. ³⁴ Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world." ³⁷ Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king.

Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; ⁵ and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. ⁶ He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

⁷ Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.

And everyone will see him—

even those who pierced him.

And all the nations of the world

will mourn for him.

Yes! Amen!

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

White: for the pureness of Christ Jesus.

Purple/Blue: royal colors for the King of Kings who came to be the Light of the World.

Once in Royal David's City

¹ *Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

⁴ *And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless,
lives and reigns in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.*

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, alt. MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur H. Mann, 1919 // CCLI #1326969

GARLAND AND CHRISTMAS TREE**Isaiah 40:3-5**

³ Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting,
"Clear the way through the wilderness
for the LORD!
Make a straight highway through the wasteland
for our God!"
⁴ Fill in the valleys,
and level the mountains and hills.
Straighten the curves,
and smooth out the rough places.
⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all people will see it together.
The LORD has spoken!”

Decking the Halls! In churches, it is called “Greening” or “Hanging of the Greens.”

Piano Music:

Deck the Halls, People Look East, O Christmas Tree

SWAGS AND WREATHS

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴“All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).”

Circle Shape of the Wreath: signifies the Eternal Presence of God.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*¹ O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:*

[Refrain:]

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

WORDS: John Frances Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others MUSIC: John Frances Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961 Desc. © 1961, Oxford University Press // CCLI #1326969

WINDOW CANDLES, GREENERY, RIBBONS

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.

⁶For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His government and its peace
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his
ancestor David
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies
will make this happen!

Window Candles: to welcome the weary traveler to a safe
place; to welcome Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #151

The First Noel

*³ And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:*

Refrain:
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

WORDS: Traditional English carol (17th century) MUSIC: Traditional English melody; desc.
Healey Willan, 1926 Desc. Used by permission of Oxford University Press // CCLI #1326969

POINSETTIA

Numbers 24:15-17a

¹⁵This is the final message Balaam delivered:

“This is the message of Balaam son of Beor,
the message of the man whose eyes see clearly,

¹⁶the message of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who bows down with eyes wide open:

¹⁷I see him, but not here and now.
I perceive him, but far in the distant future.
A star will rise from Jacob;
a scepter will emerge from Israel.

Shape of the Flower: represents the Star of Bethlehem that the Wise Men followed to find the child, Jesus.

Red Leaves: symbolize the blood shed by Jesus at the time of Crucifixion.

White Leaves: symbolize the purity of Christ Jesus.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #170

How Great Our Joy!

⁴ *Jesus, the gift from heav'n above
fills all our hearts with joy and love:*

Refrain:

*How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!*

WORDS: Traditional German carol, alt. MUSIC: Traditional German melody; arr. Hugo Jüngst,
c. 1890 // CCLI #1326969

HOLLY AND IVY

Jeremiah 23:5-6

⁵ “For the time is coming,”

says the LORD,

“when I will raise up a righteous descendant
from King David’s line.

He will be a King who rules with wisdom.

He will do what is just and right throughout the land.

⁶ And this will be his name:

‘The LORD Is Our Righteousness.’

In that day Judah will be saved,
and Israel will live in safety.

HYMN

The Holly and The Ivy

¹ *The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown: [Chorus]*

*Chorus: O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

² *The holly bears a blossom,
As white as lily flow'r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our dear Saviour: [Chorus]*

³ *The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To do poor sinners good: [Chorus]*

CCLI #1326969

ROSE

Isaiah 11:1

¹ Out of the stump of the line of David will grow a shoot –
Yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

In Christianity, the petals of the rose symbolize the five wounds Jesus suffered at the Crucifixion.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #160

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

¹ *Lo, how a rose, e'er blooming,
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming
by faithful prophets sung;
it came, a flow'ret bright,
amid the cold of winter
when half-spent was the night.*

² *Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.*

*To show God's love aright
she bore to us a Savior
when half-spent was the night.*

WORDS: German carol (15th century); tr. Theodore Baker, 1894 MUSIC: Traditional melody;
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609 // CCLI #1326969

NATIVITY

Luke 2:4-7

⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #147

Away in a Manger

*¹ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*² The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*³ Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

WORDS: Anonymous (19th century) MUSIC: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978
Harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress // CCLI
#1326969

ADVENT WREATH

Psalm 89:1-4

¹ I will sing of the LORD's unfailing love forever!

Young and old will hear of your faithfulness.

² Your unfailing love will last forever.

Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.

³ The LORD said, "I have made a covenant with David, my
chosen servant.

I have sworn this oath to him:

⁴ 'I will establish your descendants as kings forever;
they will sit on your throne from now until eternity.'"

ANTHEM

Juliane LaRocca

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #127

Creator of the Stars of Night

¹ *Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call.*

WORDS: Latin hymn (9th century); tr. As in *The Hymnal*, 1940, alt. MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode IV; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1943, alt. Tr. © 1940, renewed 1971, The Church Hymnal Corp. // 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.

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

All: God of Light and Hope, we offer ourselves to you in response to Christ Jesus' call. Out of the abundance of your love, we offer gifts to you. Please accept these offerings as tributes to your glory as we dedicate ourselves anew to Christ's service. We know you will help us to use these gifts wisely as we spread Light and Hope to the community and the world. Amen.

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.*

² *O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us full of grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.*

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

Adapted from Chalice Hymnal #715

One: We have been renewed and refreshed with beautiful decorations, Scripture readings, and words for the coming season.

All: We thank God, through Christ Jesus for the wonderful things God has done for us and for the world. We join the world in rejoicing!

One: God, Mother and Father of us all, will continue to bless us as we seek to do God's mission work in the world.

All: We give praise and thanks to God who binds us in unity and faith to one another. Since the universe began, God was our God then, is our God now, and will be our God forevermore. Amen.

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.*



All Bible readings this morning come from the NLT – New Living Translation