

# ORDER OF RECORDED WORSHIP

November 28, 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



## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **HOPE**

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## **WELCOME**

### **GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

#### **UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 25:1-10

**All: I offer my life to you, LORD.**

**<sup>2</sup> My God, I trust you.**

**Please don't let me be put to shame!**

**Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!**

**<sup>3</sup> For that matter,**

don't let anyone who hopes in you  
be put to shame;  
instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be  
put to shame.

<sup>4</sup> Make your ways known to me, LORD;  
teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—  
because you are the God who saves me.  
I put my hope in you all day long.

<sup>6</sup> LORD, remember your compassion and faithful love—  
they are forever!

<sup>7</sup> But don't remember the sins of my youth or my  
wrongdoing.

Remember me only according to your faithful love  
for the sake of your goodness, LORD.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is good and does the right thing;  
he teaches sinners which way they should go.

<sup>9</sup> God guides the weak to justice,  
teaching them his way.

<sup>10</sup> All the LORD's paths are loving and faithful  
for those who keep his covenant and laws.

Let us worship God!

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #119

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

<sup>1</sup> *O come, O come Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

<sup>2</sup> *O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]*

<sup>3</sup> *O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
and order all things, far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge of show,  
and cause us in her ways to go. [Refrain]*

<sup>4</sup> *O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]*

WORDS: Latin hymn (12<sup>th</sup> century); st.1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916 MUSIC: French melody (15<sup>th</sup> century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854 // CCLI #1326969

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent 1 – *Hope*

One: Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation to celebrate a miracle whose symbolism has been repeated for hundreds of years. Yet, this great miracle astounds us anew each year.

**All: Be not afraid, God's hope is at hand.**

One: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based, not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe we have received the Promise

and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

**All: We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.**

One: Believing in God's promises, we light the candle of hope.

**All: Be not afraid, God's hope is at hand.**

## ADVENT HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #128

### *One Candle Is Lit*

<sup>1</sup> *Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.*

WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988 MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895 Words © 1995  
Chalice Press // CCLI #1326969

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: God of Light, who shines in deepest darkness, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. At times, we are frightened by your call; we sometimes draw back from taking chances. At times, we do not want to follow your Light because it might lead us into places where we do not feel comfortable or confident. We know you need us in these places, but we would rather not see the homeless, the hungry, and those who have been forgotten. Help us, Loving God, to remember you are always with us no matter where we go in this world. We ask that you let your Light shine through us as we minister to all people. Help us to bring hope into the world. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: The words of the psalmist remind us that God is eternally upright and trustworthy. If we invite God to instruct us, God will teach us life's recipe for the Right Way to Live – God's Righteousness. God always surrounds us with love, so let us abide in God's covenant and rely on God's truth: God will lead us on paths of steadfast love for all people and for the earth. God through Christ Jesus is our Friend and our Savior. Be assured, in God through 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**

### **ANTHEM**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 33:14-16 (CEB)

<sup>14</sup> The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

**EPISTLE LESSON**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (CEB)

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God? <sup>10</sup> Night and day, we pray more than ever to see all of you in person and to complete whatever you still need for your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. <sup>13</sup> May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne

“Birthing Pains: Leading to the Birth of New Hope  
and New Life”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD****PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

Chalice Hymnal #132

***When God Is a Child***

<sup>1</sup> *Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985 MUSIC: John Collier Fogg, 1987 © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. // 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**

*<sup>4</sup> What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but  
what can I offer: all my heart. A-men.*

*Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt. TUNE: CRANHAM Irr. Gustav Holst, 1906 From The New Century Hymnal, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press. Permission granted. // CCLI #1326969*

## **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: God of Promise, you cause the Branch of Hope to bud and flower; we offer you the fruits of our labors. May we bring reassurance to all that you are, indeed, the God of Hope and Love. Please help us to use these offerings wisely as we seek to live by your Word. We join with you through Christ in the hope for peace, joy, and love throughout the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## 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.).

### COMMUNION HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #263  
(sung twice)

#### *Surely the Presence of the Lord*

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;  
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,  
I see glory on each face; surely the  
presence of the Lord is in this place.*

WORDS and MUSIC: Lanny Wolfe, 1977 © 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music; used by permission of Pathway Music // CCLI #1326969

### INVITATION

Chalice Hymnal #388

#### *Remember Me*

***ALL:*** *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 SACRED MEAL

## 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 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 #136

#### *Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming*

<sup>1</sup> *Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth. Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth. Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word.*

<sup>2</sup> *Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed. Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.*

<sup>3</sup> *Christians all, your Lord is coming, he will rise up  
from the dead. Lift the cup, of sin forgiven;  
bless the host and eat his bread. Mend the ways where  
peace is broken, give yourselves to true Shalom.*

<sup>4</sup> *Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is  
now at hand. Let there be no hesitation,  
walk in faith where life demands. Bear the word that  
God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.*

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1993 MUSIC: Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830 Words © 1995  
Chalice Press // CCLI #1326969

## **RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

Adapted from Chalice Hymnal #136

One: Let us continue to sing our alleluias as we look forward to renewing our hope, peace, joy and love in the coming of the Lord.

**All: We will ring bells and sing to God's glory! We will pray to God each day and then listen to hear God's Words for our lives.**

One: Let the Light of Christ in you shine forth to every one you meet.

**All: We shall let Christ Jesus' Light shine through us as we minister to all people.**

One: Bring hope into the world!

**All: We shall walk in faith where life demands and continue to sing our alleluias to God through Christ! Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

### *Our Christmas Prayer*

*Our Christmas prayer for you is that you may find him too,  
Not just as a babe in history,  
But as the Savior that he longs to be.  
He came to die to pay the debt of sin.  
If you believe on him, then he will enter in,  
And that will answer our prayer for you,  
Our Christmas prayer for you. A-men, a-men.*



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