

ORDER OF RECORDED WORSHIP

December 19, 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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LOVE

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY

A PLAY AND CAROL SING

A CHRISTMAS MORNING

WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A wonderful gift from God for all people.

Many: He comes with love.

One: A sign that God will always be with us.

Many: He brings us hope.

One: The angels share the news. God's promise is fulfilled.

Many: We are filled with joy.

One: He teaches peace and harmony.

Many: Let there be peace on earth.

ALL: Come, let us worship the Holy One!

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!*

² *Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
glory in the highest; [Refrain]*

³ *Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly? [Refrain]*

⁴ *Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]*

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Advent 4 – *Love*

Today's candle is being lit by The Wright sisters

One: Joy to the world!

All: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns.

One: We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of Advent candles.

All: We are comforted by the warmth of their glow.

One: We pause and red-light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. We believe in the hope of justice for the world. We hear again the promise of peace, coming in the One who lived Shalom among all people. We are feeling again the joy that comes through partnership in the gospel.

All: Hope, peace, and joy to the world!

One: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No

other word so completely describes what we know of God.

All: For God so loved the world...

One: For God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior was made in the form of Love Incarnate. And love was allowed to live on...

All: We gather then in Christian love and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more during this Advent and Christmas season.

ADVENT HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #128

One Candle Is Lit

*⁴ Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play,
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.
One candle is lit for God's loving surprise.*

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

UNISON PRAYER

All: We are often distracted by the busyness of the season, by the stress of commitments and got-to's, and even by putting our own traditions ahead of remembering the true meaning of Christmas. Remind us to search for your presence and allow us to see you in the moments leading up to this holiday, which is a holy day. We will refocus our hearts as we continue through this season of waiting and preparation for the greatest gift of all: your son, Jesus. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

(all NRSV)

Micah 5:2

“But you, O Bethlehem, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.”

Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.”

Isaiah 9:6-7

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.”

Isaiah 11:1

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse (King David's father), and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him...”

Jeremiah 23:5-6

“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.”

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

A Christmas Morning

Written and Directed by
Lee Carman, Director of Faith Formation

PAGEANT MUSIC:

INSTRUMENTAL:

What Child Is This?

CAROL: Chalice Hymnal #144

O Little Town of Bethlehem

¹ *O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.*

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt. MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868 // CCLI #1326969

CAROL: 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.*

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

CAROL:

Chalice Hymnal #155

Angels We Have Heard on High

¹ *Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.*

[Refrain:] *Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt. MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956 Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co. // CCLI #1326969

CAROL:

Chalice Hymnal #172

We Three Kings

¹ *We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

[Refrain] *O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

WORDS and MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857 // CCLI #1326969

CAROL:

Chalice Hymnal #145

Silent Night

¹ *Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
round yon virgin mother and child,*

*holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818 // CCLI #1326969

CAROL:

Chalice Hymnal #143

Joy to the World

¹ *Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

² *Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

³ *He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848 // CCLI #1326969

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

TELOS

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

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #163

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

¹ *Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle-stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

² *Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story--
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you.*

WORDS: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1925 MUSIC: Polish folk melody; adapt. A. E. Rusbridge Adapt. Used by permission of Rosalind Rushbridge // CCLI #1326969

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace, and take with you the knowledge
That Jesus is always coming into the world.
We will look for Jesus, not in a stable or ancient manger,
but in the people we meet and within our own hearts.
May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to
others.
May the peace of this season pervade all that you do.
Now as we leave this place in hope, peace, joy and love as
one body of Christ

Join me in reading 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.***

Cast:

Grandma: Lillian
Father: Paul
Child #1: Landon
Child #2: Kenley
Mother: Laurel
Mary: Zoe
Angel #1: Juliana
Angel #2: Tessa
Joseph: Josh
Shepherd #1: Miranda
Shepherd #2: Munro
Shepherd #3: Caylee
Sheep: Tristan and Sasha
Wise One #1: Drew
Wise One #2: Lyla
Wise One #3: Skylar

Participants:

R.J. Traynor

Members of T.E.L.O.S. youth group
(T.E.L.O.S. = Teens Experience Living Out the Story):

Carina, Emma, Jake, James,
Laurel, Lillian, Norah, Olivia, and Paul

Members of S.E.E.D. youth group
(S.E.E.D. = Students Explore and Experience Discipleship):
Josh, Nathan, and Rachel

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who played a part in all the different capacities for today's performance!

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A special Thank you Lee Carman for writing this pageant and putting the time into the recorded and in-person presentations.