

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 9, 2022

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to Worship at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're happy to have you with us this morning. If you are visiting and would like to receive more information about our church, please fill out an "I Wish" card found in the pew rack.

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 AFTER EPIPHANY

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

CONGREGATION RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*As the prelude begins, let the music help you enter into the spirit of
worship and prayer.*

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance

Chalice Hymnal #543

CALL TO WORSHIP (please remain seated)

(Call and Response using Isaiah 43:1-7 and Psalm 29)

Lay Reader:

But now, says the Lord – the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

Pastor:

You, divine beings! Give to the Lord – give to the Lord glory and power! Give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bow down to the Lord in holy splendor!

Lay Reader:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when through the rivers, they won't sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched and flame won't burn you.

Pastor:

The Lord's voice is over the waters; the glorious God thunders; the Lord is over the mighty waters. The Lord's voice is strong; the Lord's voice is majestic. The Lord's voice breaks cedar trees – yes, the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

Lay Reader:

I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. Because you are precious in my eyes, you are honored, and I love you. I give people in your place, and nations in exchange for your life.

Pastor:

He makes Lebanon jump around like a young bull, makes Sirion jump around like a young wild ox. The Lord's voice unleashes fiery flames; the Lord's voice shakes the wilderness – yes, the Lord's voice shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Lay Reader:

Don't fear, I am with you. From the east I'll bring your children; from the west I'll gather you. I'll say to the north, "Give them back!" and to the south, "Don't detain them."

Pastor:

The Lord's voice convulses the oaks, strips the forests bare, but in his temple everyone shouts, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned over the floodwaters; the Lord sits enthroned – king forever!

Lay Reader:

Bring my sons from far away, and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name and whom I created for my glory, whom I have formed and made.

Pastor:

Let the Lord give strength to his people! Let the Lord bless his people with peace! Let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #25
(vs.1, 2, 5)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God, in Christ you have assured redemption and we ask that you hear our confession. Christ Jesus has proclaimed your goodwill to all people, yet we still retaliate against some people. At times, those who mourn tremendous loss go uncomforted as warfare and oppression continue on the earth. There are many who are being held captive and await deliverance while we take freedom for granted. Loving God, through Christ Jesus we recognize you as our Savior. As the service progresses and we renew our baptismal vows, we give thanks that we will be given the opportunity to continue this prayer and take part in the Assurance of Forgiveness.

***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

(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman for Sunday School.)

GOSPEL LESSON

Pew Bible NT p. 60
LP Pew Bible NT p. 84

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

*"We Are, Before Anything Else,
Cherished Sons and Daughters of God"*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #357 (vs.3)

We Call Ourselves Disciples

*We're baptized in the Spirit, in waters God provides.
In Christ we rise to newness, for in him we have died.
Now dead to powers of evil, and free from hopeless fears,
We live with faith and purpose, creative through the years.*

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.

RESPONSE

OFFERING

Sentence

Offertory *Wade In the Water*

Presentation of Offerings

The Shopping Cart is used during the offering to collect your gifts of food for Ellington and Tri-Town residents in need. The food is distributed by the Ellington Food Bank, Crystal Lake Community Food Pantry, the HVCC Food Pantry and The Cornerstone Cupboard. Your generosity is a blessing to all who receive and a witness to Christ's love for the world. Thank you!

*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.*

RENEWING OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

LITURGY OF REDEDICATION

Pastor:

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, through the Sacrament of Baptism, God's Spirit has been poured out upon the waters of the earth. We are blessed to receive the water of baptism whether this water is sprinkled on us, poured over us, or we are immersed in a body of water. This is

water that flows freely for all who will receive it – water from the streams of God's graciousness, water that brings hope to all who thirst for justice and peace, water that refreshes life, water that nurtures growth and offers new beginnings.

All:

Today we come to the water of Baptism to renew in each other's presence our commitments to the Spirit who has birthed us, Jesus Christ who raised us up, and our Divine Parent who declares us "Beloved!" We show our gratitude to God with this song of praise:

Here, Savior, We Would Come

Chalice Hymnal #363

Pastor:

You and I, as Christ Jesus' disciples, are the ones who step forth out of the safe water of Baptism to bring hope, to share a word of love and reconciliation, to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives of those around us. As a continuation of our confession this morning, let us talk with God through Christ Jesus about how we still struggle at times to follow in trust wherever God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit lead us.

All:

Eternal God, you cast Light into the darkness, cast sin and doubt away, and call us your Beloved Ones. As Jesus knelt in the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed him as your child, pointing to him and his teaching as the way to your new life. Forgive us when we put ourselves ahead of Christ Jesus. Forgive us when we think he is no longer needed. Forgive us when we fail to see him in the broken ones of the world.

Moment of Silence

All:

Baptized and blessed in your living waters, you would have us be your followers in our time. Forgive us: when we fail to welcome the stranger; when we refuse to forgive as we should; when we believe we are too good to kneel down and tie the shoes of the lost, the least, the last, the lonely.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of hope and peace, and embraced in the warmth of God's love and promises – hear God's Good News. Our sins are forgiven.

All: Blessed and taught by Jesus about Righteousness, God's Recipe for Life, called to service in the name of God, and filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are God's people. Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO REMEMBER AND RENEW YOUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION Chalice Hymnal #368

I Come to be Baptized Today

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Adapted from Chalice Hymnal #368

One: We have chosen through Christ Jesus to walk God's Way.

All: We will walk in righteousness and truth, refreshed, renewed, and transformed .

One: We can be bold in our resolve to live our lives anew because of God's gift of the Holy Spirit who is our Advocate.

All: In future days we will walk with God, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God! Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (seated) Chalice Hymnal #159

(vs.2)

There's a Song in the Air!

*There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
for the Virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
See, the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!*

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE



Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

Location & Shipping Address: 72 Main Street

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 216 ~ Ellington, Connecticut 06029

The Rev. Joanne Myer

Juliane LaRocca

Lee Carman

Jill McAllister

Intentional Interim Minister

Director of Music

Director of Faith Formation

Outreach & Media Coordinator

Church Secretary

Phone: 860-871-6606

Fax: 860-871-5932

E-mail: sec-eccucc@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.eccucc.org