

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 7, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to Worship at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We are 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 and place it in the offering plate during our Offertory time.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PEACE

BELL CHOIR SUNDAY

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(Our church welcomes to Communion all people of all ages
who desire to follow God through Christ Jesus and grow in
faith.)*

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

PRELUDE

Senior Bell Choir

O Come, All Ye Faithful

***† Please feel free to change wording referring to God to
whatever language supports your faith.***

*All who are able, please stand.

WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #125

One: We gather here on this Second Sunday of Advent to
relive the story of Jesus’ birth that many of us know
so well. We ask to be refreshed and perhaps even to
be transformed with new insights.

All: Jesus provides our strength, support, and comfort.

One: As we wait with expectation and contemplate the deep
meaning of the season, we give thanks that Christ
Jesus releases us from our fears and sins.

**All: Jesus provides our strength, support, comfort, and
salvation.**

One: We are grateful that God surrounds us with hope and
peace.

**All: Loving God, we give you thanks. We are blessed to
gather in worship!**

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #125

Come, O Long-expected Jesus

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Advent 2: Peace

***~ Today’s candles are being lit by Cathy Leonard and Robin
Miller ~***

One: The season of Advent continues. Four thousand years
of waiting for the Messiah are remembered today
by the lighting of two of the candles.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

One: We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin. We now re-light that candle.

All: Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

One: Today we also light the candle of peace.

All: This light, too, must brave great darkness.

One: The peace for which we dare to hope is a peace that is the fullness of blessing for all, not merely the absence of war and conflict.

All: In following Christ's teachings, we continue to nurture our hope for peace.

HYMN Chalice Hymnal #128 (vs. 2)
One Candle Is Lit

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God of Forgiveness, at times we speak unkindly of our family, friends, and neighbors. By our actions, we do not always live into your recipe for a "Right Way of Living." Sometimes we allow suspicion and envy to breed hostility within us and anger continues in spite of Christ Jesus bringing peace to earth. We ask that you open our eyes to Jesus' Righteousness and to the truth of his Reconciling Presence. In Christ Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The prophet Isaiah spoke of God's wanting comfort for us, of God's forgiveness of sin, and of the One coming who would level uneven ground and make an even plain of the rough places in our lives. All the earth would know that Jesus came to earth to bring peace, hope, joy, and above all,

*All who are able, please stand.

love. In Christ Jesus, God Incarnate, we have the assurance of God's forgiveness. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #130 (vs. 1)
My Soul Gives Glory to My God
My soul gives glory to my God.
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE AND LOVE OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS**

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Bell Choir
People, Look East

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
(Children will be dismissed with Leslie Ledoux for One-Room Schoolhouse.)

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible OT p #640
Isaiah 11:1-10

MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
"Are We Still Climbing?"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #127 (vs. 2)
Creator of the Stars of Night
To you the deep travail was known
that made the whole creation groan.
You came, O Savior, to set free
your own in glorious liberty.

*All who are able, please stand.

IN OUR PRAYERS AND 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: *Affirmation By Touch for Our Offerings to God*

Sentence

Offertory

Senior Bell Choir

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (Huron Carol)

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 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

In the Bleak Midwinter

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him – Give my heart.

*All who are able, please stand.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of Incarnate Love, we offer our gifts to you. We ask that you help us to use them to spread the news that Christ Jesus came to us so that all may have the opportunity to dwell on an earth where peace means justice and acceptance no matter who we are, what we believe, or where we are on life's journey. Please help us to break down whatever hostility divides our sisters and brothers and hear us as we dedicate ourselves anew to becoming your agents of reconciliation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

(Children have rejoined the congregation at this time.)



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The Invitation to the Table

A Responsive Communion Liturgy

Pastor: Called to the table, to share the wine and bread,

"I want you to remember me," Jesus softly said.

All: Come, Come to the table.

Pastor: We think about the mystery – the words that Jesus said, and how he gave his life for us as we break the bread.

All: Come, Come to the table.

Pastor: Gathered at the table, God's Spirit in the air,
We drink the cup of blessing, the bread of life we share.

All: Come, Come to the table.

Pastor: Together in communion, one family – young and old,
we celebrate together, as ancient words are told.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: Come, Come to the table.

Pastor: There's room at the table, no matter how we feel,
Jesus reaches out to us in this holy meal.

All: Come, Come to the table.

Pastor: We rise from the table, forgiven, loved, and free.
We leave to be the people who God calls us to be.

All: Come, Come to the table.

Pastor: Gathered at the table, surrounded by God's grace,
We are one Christian family, in every time and place.

All: Come, Come to the table.

*Copyright@GlenysNellist, Words taken from Gathered at the
Table: Celebrating Communion, published by Zonderkidz,
2024*

Unison Prayer of Consecration

All: You have called us this day, Loving God, to share this time together in community. We are honored and blessed to share this Holy Meal in the manner of the saints who have preceded us for many generations. We ask to be renewed, refreshed, and transformed as we strive to do your work in the world. Loving God, we ask you to consecrate these gifts of bread and the cup, and to bless us with the presence of your Holy Spirit, that we may come to know you more fully, and to live as one body in Christ Jesus. We know that coming to this table is a blessing and a celebration of the gift of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Call to the Meal

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Partake in this holy meal for all things are ready.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: We are blessed by and take in these gifts of God remembering that Christ Jesus died, was raised for us, and ascended to eternity.

The Distribution and Sharing of the Elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Loving God, we give thanks to you for blessing us with this life-giving Communion meal. We are grateful that you love us unconditionally. We listen to hear your words spoken to us, realizing those words are sometimes shouted, sometimes whispered, and sometimes given to us in unusual ways and places as we seek spiritual renewal throughout our lives. We are grateful for community and Communion together that energizes us for the call to continue your ministry through Christ Jesus. We thank you for the knowledge and the wisdom we have acquired here! Please let it be your will that what was learned will strengthen our minds and bodies for the fulfillment of our souls. We are blessed and give thanks that you guide us in many ways in all that we do. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.



GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #677

Let There Be Peace on Earth

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (seated)

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #677

**One: By prayer, praise, Holy Communion, and God's Word
our hearts have been filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**All: With the help of the Holy Spirit we will share God's
hope, peace, joy, and love through Christ Jesus.**

*All who are able, please stand.

God's love and peace within the Temple of our hearts will guide our days. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



COPYRIGHTS

One Candle Is Lit

WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988

MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

Words © 1995 Chalice Press

CCLI #1326969

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

Words © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

CCLI #1326969

In the Bleak Midwinter

From *The New Century Hymnal*

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.

CCLI #1326969

Creator of the Stars of Night

WORDS: Latin hymn (9th century); tr. as in *The Hymnal*, 1940, alt.

MUSIC: Plainsong, Mode IV; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1943, alt.

Tr. © 1940, 1943, renewed 1971, The Church Hymnal Corp.

CCLI #1326969

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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

Come to Me, O Weary Traveler

WORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990

MUSIC: William P. Rowan, 1992

Words © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.; music © 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc.; all rights reserved

CCLI #1326969

Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORDS: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955

MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987

© 1955, renewed 1983, Jan-Lee Music

CCLI #1326969

The Message Bible

"Scripture (and other words) taken from *The Message*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group."

New International Version

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Common English Bible

Scripture quotations taken from the *Common English Bible*, copyright 2011. Used by permission by *Prepare!* an ecumenical music and worship planner. All rights reserved.

*All who are able, please stand.

*All who are able, please stand.

Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

Location & Shipping Address: 72 Main Street

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

The Rev. Joanne Myer Intentional Interim Minister
860 872 9222

Juliane LaRocca Director of Music

Lee Carman Director of Faith Formation

Caroline Takach Office Administrator

Maggie Kutscher Office Administrator Substitute

Cheyenne West Little Sparks Nursery Attendant

Betsy Cottle (volunteer) Church Clerk

Lisa Sirag (volunteer) Historian

Phone: 860-871-6606 Fax: 860-871-5932

E-mail: **OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org**

Website: www.eccucc.org

*All who are able, please stand.