

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 1, 2024

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #138

One: On this first Sunday of Advent we give thanks that the blessed Baby, the Child of longing has been given as a gift from God.

All: Christ Jesus dwells within us; he has and will continue to bring all hearts together and to bring hope to all.

One: Love and hope will continue to be our song, our prayer, and our story.

All: We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #138

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Advent 1: ***Hope***

~ Today’s candle is being lit by Chris Pettigrew and Dave Robert ~

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

*All who are able, please stand.

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.

HYMN Chalice Hymnal #128 (vs. 1)
One Candle Is Lit

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: God was and is in Christ Jesus to reunite the world and to satisfy our hunger and thirst after Righteousness, God's Way to live a joy-filled life in this world. Jesus is the Bread of Life. All who humbly come to him and confess their sin will be filled with God's mercy and sustained by God's graciousness. So let us taste and see how God cares for us. Know and believe the Good News of God's love. Our sins are forgiven. 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.

*All who are able, please stand.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
(Children will be dismissed for Church School led by Irene Mosher.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Pew Bible OT p #738
Large Print Bible OT p #1120
Jeremiah 33:14-16

REFLECTION Pastor Joanne
"Packing for the Journey"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #127 (vs. 1)
Creator of the Stars of Night
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.

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**

*All who are able, please stand.

and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONSE

(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)

OFFERING: Affirmation By Touch for Our Offerings to God

Sentence

Offertory

Jessica Duga and Irene Mosher

Whispering Hope

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**

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;

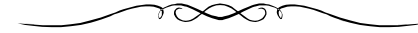
yet what I can I give Him – Give my heart.

***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. 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

*All who are able, please stand.

for peace, joy, and love throughout the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #136 (vs. 1, 2)

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

Invitation to the Table

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

Distribution and Sharing of the Elements

*All who are able, please stand.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Loving God, you have been present with us throughout our service and have renewed and transformed us with this sacred meal. We give you thanks! We will strive to remember whose we are at all times. When we gather at other tables with friends, loved ones, and perhaps strangers, we will know that God, Christ, and Holy Spirit are with us there as well as here. We go from here fed, nourished, and joy-filled! Amen.



GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #136 (vs. 3, 4)
Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (seated)

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #431

One: We are blessed on this first Sunday of the Advent season to remember again the anticipation for Christ Jesus' holy birth.

All: We give thanks that our souls have been stirred by God's Word, by praise, and by music so that we may walk in faith through the joys and demands of life. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE



*All who are able, please stand.

COPYRIGHTS

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983

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CCLI #1326969

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

Creator of the Stars of Night

WORDS: Latin hymn (9th century); tr. as in *The Hymnal*, 1949, alt.

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

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

CCLI #1326969

In the Bleak Midwinter

From *The New Century Hymnal*

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.

CCLI #1326969

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1993

MUSIC: Joshua Levitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

Words © 1995 Chalice Press

CCLI #1326969

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

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The Message Bible

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*All who are able, please stand.

JESUS CHRIST

Luke 1:46b-55

130 My Soul Gives Glory to My God

Cm Fm Eb Ab Db Eb Fm Cm Fm

1. My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My
 2. My God has done great things for me: yes,
 3. From age to age, to all who fear, such
 4. Love casts the might - y from their thrones, pro -
 5. Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup -

Db Eb7 Ab Bbm Ab Ab Db Eb Ab

1. heart pours out its praise. God lift - ed up my
 2. ho - ly is her name. All peo - ple will de -
 3. mer - cy love im - parts, dis - pens - ing jus - tice
 4. motes the in - se - cure, leaves hun - gry spir - its
 5. ports those in dis - tress, re - mem - ber - ing past

Eb7 Bbm Ab Db Eb Bbm Eb Fm

1. low - li - ness in man - y mar - ve - lous ways.
 2. clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
 3. far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
 4. sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
 5. prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Guitar and keyboard should not sound together.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987
 MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813;
 harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

MORNING SONG
CM

*All who are able, please stand.

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God tran - scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when Christ comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the mid - night air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I of - fer: all my heart.

Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in
 warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England.
 Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose,
 noted for her deep spirituality.

Tune: CRANHAM Irr.
Gustav Holst, 1906

*All who are able, please stand.

Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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Caroline Takach	Office Administrator
Maggie Kutscher	Office Administrator Substitute
Cheyenne West	Little Sparks Nursery Attendant
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