

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 8, 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 the 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

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

PRELUDE Senior Bell Choir
The Holly and the Ivy

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Luke 1:68-70, 76-79 (CEB)

One: Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David’s house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

All: You, child will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

One: You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins.

All: Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace.

We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***OPENING HYMN** Chalice Hymnal #135
Blessed Be the God of Israel
(Luke 1:68-79)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Advent 2: Peace
~ *Today’s candle is being lit by Bill and Jill McAllister* ~

One: The season of Advent continues. Four thousand years of waiting for the Messiah, commemorated by the lighting of four candles and the Christ candle.

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.

*All who are able, please stand.

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, 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.

*All who are able, please stand.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Bell Choir
Manger Lullaby

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman
(Children will be dismissed for Church School.)

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON Pew Bible NT p. #60
Large Print Bible NT p. #84
Luke 3:1-6

MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
"Prepare the Way!"

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.

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

*All who are able, please stand.

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 Choir

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 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

*All who are able, please stand.

and hear us as we dedicate ourselves anew to becoming your agents of reconciliation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #677

Let There Be Peace on Earth

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: By prayer, praise, 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. 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



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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

*All who are able, please stand.

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

Blessed Be the God of Israel

WORDS: Michael Perry, 1973
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983
Words ©1973, music © Hope Publishing Co.
CCLI #1326969

In the Bleak Midwinter

From *The New Century Hymnal*
Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.
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

Common English Bible (CEB)

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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.

*All who are able, please stand.

In the Bleak Midwinter

128

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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