ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 15, 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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

PRELUDE

Children's Chime Choir

Christmas Carol Medley

WELCOME

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Advent progressing – the time of anticipating and preparing.

All: We gladly watch and wait as we live in joyous expectation.

One: The season of hope, peace, joy, and love is unfolding.

All: Even though the darker winter season is upon us, hope is all around us.

One: We will come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

All: Our souls will magnify God's name and our Spirits will rejoice in God.

We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #142

People Look East

Comparison of the Advent WREATH Advent 3: Joy and a Nathan Wright Advent 3: Joy Nathan

One: God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our song of joy.

All: We wait and we prepare.

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

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

One: At first there was the frail light of a single candle of hope, daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin. We re-light the candle of hope.

^{*}All who are able, please stand.

All: Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit. We re-light that candle as we hope for peace and understanding throughout the world.

One: Today we light the candle of joy. Joy to the world.
All: In the glow of the lights of hope and peace, we feel
the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #128 (vs. 3)

One Candle Is Lit

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God, through Christ Jesus you have taught us to be patient and have promised to supply our needs. Yet, at times we grow weary of waiting and restless with our wants. We blame our troubles on our neighbor while, at the same time, we withhold from them the tolerance and care you have shown to us. We ask that you make us mindful of all your children and help us to care for all of your beautiful and bountiful creation. Help us, please, to carry the glow of the lights of hope, peace, joy, and love in our hearts all year long. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the words of the Apostle Paul when he teaches that we should live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. As we focus our minds on the goodness of God, we will have the assurance that in Christ Jesus we 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.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Children's Choir

Little Drummer Boy

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

MESSAGE

Christmas Play, written by Juliane LaRocca

"Let Us Never Forget"

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Away in a Manger
Chalice Hymnal #144 (vs. 1&4)
Chalice Hymnal #147 (vs. 1&2)
Chalice Hymnal #150 (vs. 1&2)
Chalice Hymnal #167 (vs. 1&2)
We Three Kings
Chalice Hymnal #172 (vs. 1&5)
Joy to the World
Chalice Hymnal #143

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #127 (vs. 3)

Creator of the Stars of Night

When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

IN OUR PRAYERS AND SILENT MEDITATION

*All who are able, please stand.

^{*}All who are able, please stand.

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

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: Great Shepherd, you feed our souls with abundance and satisfy your people with goodness. We ask that you accept these gifts we bring to you in response to the love you have shown us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION Chalice Hymnal #164
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (seated)

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #164

One: This week and always, let us continue to rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

All: We shall continue to rejoice because our Savior, Christ Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and love. We are truly blessed! Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Julie LaRocca

PARTICIPANTS

Benjamin Beth Chloe Hannah Irene Lee Leslie Lyla Mila Miranda Oliviamarie Sasha Skylar Tristan Zoe



^{*}All who are able, please stand.

COPYRIGHTS

People Look East

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: Traditional French carol; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928

Words © 1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc.; harm. used by permission of Oxford

University Press CCLI #1326969

One Candle Is Lit

WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988 **MUSIC:** William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895 Words © 1995 Chalice Press

CCLI #1326969

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, 1868, alt. **MUSIC:** Lewis H. Redner, 1868

CCLI #1326969

Away in a Manger

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856; desc. Paul

Liljestrand

Desc. ©1976, Paragon Music Corp; all rights reserved; used by permission of Benson

Music Group, Inc. CCLI #1326969

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

WORDS: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr. 1907 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986 Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House CCLI #1326969

We Three Kings

WORDS & MUSIC: John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1857

CCLI #1326969

Joy to the World

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

CCLI #1326969

In the Bleak Midwinter

From *The New Century Hymnal* Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt. CCLI #1326969

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

WORDS: Latin (14th century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt. **MUSIC:** German melody (14th century); harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953 Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983, Westminster/John Knox Press CCLI #1326969

^{*}All who are able, please stand.





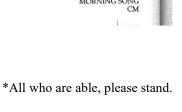
128

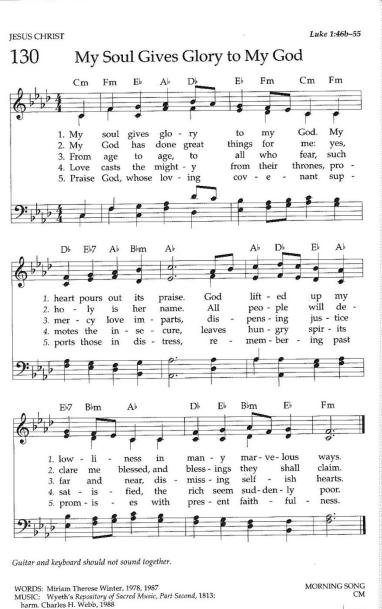
Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.



Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.

warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England.





*All who are able, please stand.

Gustav Holst, 1906

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 Director of Faith Formation** Lee Carman **Outreach & Media Coordinator** Jill McAllister **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.