

## 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**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## 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***

#### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Advent 3: **Joy**

***~ Today’s candles are being lit by Rachel Milheiro and Nathan Wright ~***

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.

\*All who are able, please stand.

**\*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* Chalice Hymnal #144 (vs. 1&4)  
*Away in a Manger* Chalice Hymnal #147 (vs. 1&2)  
*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* Chalice Hymnal #150 (vs. 1&2)  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain* 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.

**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.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**\*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 (9<sup>th</sup> 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 (19<sup>th</sup> 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 Liljestränd

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 (14<sup>th</sup> century); tr. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.

**MUSIC:** German melody (14<sup>th</sup> century); harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

Harm. © 1955, renewed 1983, Westminster/John Knox Press

CCLI #1326969

\*All who are able, please stand.

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# 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**

*Location & Shipping Address: 72 Main Street*

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

<b>The Rev. Joanne Myer</b>	<b>Intentional Interim Minister</b> <b>860 872 9222</b>
<b>Juliane LaRocca</b>	<b>Director of Music</b>
<b>Lee Carman</b>	<b>Director of Faith Formation</b>
<b>Jill McAllister</b>	<b>Outreach &amp; Media Coordinator</b>
<b>Caroline Takach</b>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<b>Maggie Kutscher</b>	<b>Office Administrator Substitute</b>
<b>Cheyenne West</b>	<b>Little Sparks Nursery Attendant</b>
<b>Betsy Cottle (volunteer)</b>	<b>Church Clerk</b>
<b>Lisa Sirag (volunteer)</b>	<b>Historian</b>

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