

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2024

10:00 P.M.

**Welcome to Worship** at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're 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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
CANDLELIGHTING

*"AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRSTBORN SON AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER ..." LUKE 2:7*

### PRELUDE

Duane Carroll, Dennis Carroll  
*O Holy Night*

### WELCOME

One: Let us sing to the glory of God through Christ Jesus.

**All: Joy to the world, the Lord has come!**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

### \*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Hymn #146

#### *From Heaven Above*

One: Jesus came from heaven to earth to bring good news to everyone!

**All: Jesus still brings glad tidings of great joy to all the world. Let the world respond with songs and endless music!**

One: This night a child was born of Mary, God-chosen virgin.

**All: This newborn child of lowly birth will be the joy and the hope of peace for all the earth!**

One: He is Jesus, the Christ, God's beloved Son and our Savior.

**All: We sing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven and a glad new year to all the earth." Let us worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### \*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #148

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*~ The Christ Candle Litany is being read and the Christ Candle lit by Jane Scordato and Beth Tautkus~*

One: We relight the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. *(Pause for the Relighting.)*

**All: The Advent candles form a circle of light that reminds us of God's never-ending love.**

One: The Advent waiting is over.

**All: The dreaming has given birth to a new reality.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

One: The source of our healing has come.

**All: God's promise has been fulfilled.**

One: Now we light the Christ candle, remembering that Jesus is in our midst today and always.

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**All: Thank you, God, for coming to be with us in the form of Jesus. We rejoice that he lived as one of us, knew our joys and sorrows, our pains and hopes and dreams. As he came to show your love to us, help us to show your love to others all the year through. Amen.**

**HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #128 (vs. 5)

*One Candle Is Lit*



**\*UNISON PRAYER**

**All: On this Christmas Eve, Holy God, you reveal to us once again in the eyes of our children, in the hopes of our adults, and in the wisdom of our seniors, that the Word is continually made flesh to dwell among us. Your light shines in our midst. Grant us the grace to see it, perceive it, and celebrate it! All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

Chalice Hymnal #153 (vs. 4)

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

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

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM**

**NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE**

Pew Bible NT p. #58

Large Print Bible NT p. #81

**Luke 2:1-20**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne Myer

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**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.**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL RESPONSE**

Chalice Hymnal #150

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

***It has been our tradition to designate The Christmas Offering for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund is used to meet the special needs of our members and friends, and local individuals and families. We invite you to share the joy of Christ's love through your generous gifts.***

\*All who are able, please stand.

**OFFERTORY**

Dave Robert, Violin

**\*DOXOLOGY**

Chalice Hymnal #162 (vs. 3)

***What Child Is This***

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, rich, and poor, to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: Loving God, on this Christmas Eve night, we give you  
our treasure and, in discipleship, will make sure that we use  
these gifts to help one another and our neighbor. Thank  
you for our many blessings and your eternal love. Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Communion Anthem**

**The Invitation to the Table**

**The Communion Prayer**

**Pastor:** Gathering around the Table as we celebrate new life  
being born, we remember many stories shared around  
tables; tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out,  
where families gather and generations share, where stories  
are remembered, refined, and reshaped.

**All: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Pastor:** Gathering around the Table on this holy night, we  
remember the story of the Holy One, the Sacred Spirit,  
daring to share our life and the Light of God. It is the story of  
the Holy One, the Sacred One, donning human flesh and

\*All who are able, please stand.

dwelling among us, a story that is at once both of heaven and  
of earth.

**All: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Pastor:** Gathering around the Table on this Christmas Eve  
night, we break the bread and remember this paradox: it is in  
our brokenness that we become whole. We also fill this cup  
and remember the abundance we each discover when we  
share our sacred stories.

**All: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Pastor:** Together, around the Table, we pray:

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this  
fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that  
our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the Spirit  
rising in our midst; indeed, in one another. Holy Spirit, thank  
you for coming to us. Amen.**

**The Distribution of the Elements**

**The Sharing of the Elements**

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All: We give you thanks, Loving God, that you have come to  
us through Christ Jesus, in the midst of time and in the midst  
of history in the city of Bethlehem. We also give thanks for  
the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we received the  
gifts of bread and wine on this holy night. We are ready to go  
into the world refreshed and renewed as your disciples.  
Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**THE ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIGHT**

Pew Bible NT p. #91

LP Pew Bible NT p. #129

**John 1:1-5**

**THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS**

During the singing of *Silent Night* the light from the Christ candle will gradually and gently illuminate the church. A Deacon will light the candle of the first person in the row. Each one will pass the light on to the next person. Please remain seated while we sing *Silent Night*.

**CAROL** (seated)

Chalice Hymnal #145

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**\*UNISON CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**All: Glorious God, greater than all that we can imagine and infinitely more vast than the universe you are still creating, we ask that you come to us once more in the simplicity and the splendor of a baby, the amazing wonder of new life. No matter what our circumstances, we will strive to allow the stirring of hope to work within us and among us so that the world may be transformed in the image of Christ. May we respond with amazement and eagerness to share the wonder we experience here. In Christ Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**DEPARTING WITH THE SPLENDOR AND LOVE OF CHRISTMAS**

**\*CAROL**

Chalice Hymnal #143

*Joy to the World*

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**CHORAL BENEDICTION** (seated)

**We invite you to depart quietly with the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas filling your hearts.**



**THANKS**

**Deacons:** Jane Scordato, Beth Tautkus, Brian Wright

**Ushers**

**Violin:** Dave Robert

**Quartet:** Juliane LaRocca, Becky Hinckley, Adam Geiger, Matt Ramos

Please join us for a

***Service of Lessons and Carols***

Sunday, December 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.

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*From Heaven Above*

**WORDS:** Martin Luther, 1535; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.

**MUSIC:** Valentin Shumann's *Geistliche Leider*, 1539

Tr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress  
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*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

*One Candle Is Lit*

**WORDS:** Mary Anne Parrott, 1988

**MUSIC:** William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895

Words © 1995 Chalice Press

CCLI #1326969

\*All who are able, please stand.

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

**WORDS:** Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

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

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**Ellington Congregational Church, UCC**

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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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