

ORDER OF VIRTUAL WORSHIP

April 2, 2021

12:00 P.M.

Welcome to Worship at the virtual Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're happy to have you with us this morning.

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



GOOD FRIDAY



WELCOME

A Reading

Chalice Hymnal #205

Behold the Love, the Grace of God

*Behold the love, the grace of God,
displayed in Jesus' precious blood;
my soul's on fire, it yearns to prove
the fullness of redeeming love.*

*The cross I view—O wondrous love!
My sins expire, my fears remove;
my native enmity is slain
I'm reconciled—I'm born again.*

*Our God is love—O, leap, my soul!
Let warm hosannas gently roll!
Love gave a Son to save our race,
and Jesus died through sov'reign grace!*

*What love has done, sing earth around!
Angels prolong the eternal sound!
Lo, Jesus bleeding on the tree!
There, there, the love of God I see!*

Barton W. Stone, 19th century Disciples forebear // CCLI #1326969

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 5:7-10 (NLT)

One: “While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death.

All: **And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.**

One: Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.

All: In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.

One: And God designated him to be a "High Priest in the order of Melchizedek."

All: We will pray as Jesus did. We will honor but grieve on Good Friday knowing what Jesus suffered for us. We will look forward to the hope and salvation God will give through Christ Jesus.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of the hilltops and of low places, Revealer at Sinai and Reassuring One in the valley of the shadow of death, we need you here. You have created us and given life to all things, but we have chased after other gods and ridiculed those who practice their faith too seriously. We have tried to put you to the test but have not wanted to be tested ourselves. We place conditions on our belief and limit our trust while the One you sent to love us is rejected, tortured, and killed. O God, what have we done, or more to the point, what haven't we done in our discipleship? Hear our cries to you! Amen.

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Pastor: God's love is not destroyed at Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified. God's love is not lessened by any doubts we might have from time to time. God reaches out to heal and revive us, and to reveal again the love that will not let us go. We

are invited to know God intimately and to accept the blessings God offers us. Along with God's invitation, gifts, and great love comes the greatest blessing – that God forgives our sins. Amen.

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #227

In the Garden

*¹I come to the garden alone,
while the dew is still on the roses;
and the voice I hear,
falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.*

[Refrain:] *And he walks with me,
and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own,
and the joy we share, as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.*

*²He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. [Refrain:]*

WORDS and MUSIC: C. Austin Miles, 1913 // CCLI #1326969

TIME OF REFLECTION

Hosannas

Hymn: *Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!*

(Refers to John 12:12-13)

WORDS: Henry H. Milman, 1827, alt. MUSIC: Adapt. From Robert Schumann, 1839 // CCLI #1326969

Betrayal

Matthew 26:6-16

Denial

Psalm 31:9-14

Aloneness

Mark 14: 32-41

Accusation

Mark 14:53-59

Suffering

Chalice Hymnal #508

For One Who Suffers

*I know I cannot enter all you feel
Nor bear with you the burden of your pain
I can but offer what my love does give—
The strength of caring
The warmth of one who seeks to understand
This I do in quiet ways—
That on your lonely path you may not walk alone.*

Howard Thurman, 20th century African American church leader © 1953 Thurman Educational Trust // CCLI #1326969

Crucifixion

Matthew 27:31-43

Death

Luke 23:44-46

All Scripture is taken from the New Living Translation.

In the Garden

*³I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around us is falling,
but he bids me go;
through the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling.*

[Refrain:] *And he walks with me,
and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own,
and the joy we share, as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.*

WORDS and MUSIC: C. Austin Miles, 1913//CCLI #1326969

BENEDICTION (responsive)

One: Keep your vigil at the cross. Let prayer and meditation be a means of transformation.

All: **We carry with us the tragedy of this day. We also carry its possibilities for reclaiming a heritage and recovering a faith to sustain and move us.**

One: Share the agony of Jesus' rejection and death, knowing how often we add to the pain.

All: **Our intent is to "take up the cross and follow." But we shrink from the anguish and falter at the cost.**

One: Say "yes" to the Christ, without reservations.

All: **Worthy is the One who was slain, to receive glory and honor and power. Amen.**

(Please observe a few moments of silence after the service to contemplate the meaning of this day.)

