

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 1, 2026

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 IN LENT

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Our church welcomes to Communion all people of all ages who desire to follow Christ Jesus and grow in faith.)

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

PRELUDE

Julie LaRocca

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Psalm 121 (NRSV, CEB versions)

One: We lift up our eyes to the hills – from where will our help come?

All: Our help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

One: God won’t let our feet slip; he who keeps us will not slumber.

All: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

One: The Lord is our protector. The Lord will keep us from all evil; God will protect our very lives.

All: The Lord will protect us on our journeys – whether going or coming – from this time on and forevermore.

Let us worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #543

Blessed Assurance

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God of Salvation, when confronted by temptations, we are easily overcome. They lure us with promises we find hard to resist. At times, we harbor fantasies of how our lives might have been had we yielded to those temptations. Our dreams become more and more persistent; they hide the truth of your love. Gracious God, we ask that you look upon us with kindness. Please help us to recognize and resist temptations when they appear. We pray this in Christ Jesus’ name. Amen.

*All who are able, please stand.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: From Hebrews 2:10, we learn that "God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation." Therein lies our assurance that Christ intercedes on our behalf. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #180 (vs. 4)

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

**Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope
and pain,
an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!**

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Choir
How Deep the Father's Love for Us

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Irene Mosher
(Children will be dismissed to accompany teachers Leslie Ledoux and Jennifer Traynor for One-Room Schoolhouse.)

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #93
John 3:1-17

MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
"A Spirit-Infused Nicodemus!"

*All who are able, please stand.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #540 (vs. 3)

O Love That Wilt Not let Me Go

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;

I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless
be.

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
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

Julie LaRocca

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

*All who are able, please stand.

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** Chalice Hymnal #195 (vs. 4)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: God of Compassion, you minister to us in our wilderness. You hear our prayers when we are in the depths of depression. In times of want, you hear our prayers and ease our situation by encouraging us to reach out to others who can help. In times of plenty we give thanks to you for we know that all we have received in life are blessings from you. In offering our gifts to you, we return a portion of what is already yours. Help us to use these gifts as disciples who carry out your mission in the world. Amen.

(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn Chalice Hymnal #411

For the Bread, Which You Have Broken

(This hymn was learned in 2024 during the Lenten Season as: Lenten Practice – Learning a New Hymn each Sunday in Lent.)

The Invitation to the Table

*All who are able, please stand.

Unison Prayer of Consecration

All: You have called us this day, Loving God, to share this time together in community. We are honored and blessed to share this Holy Meal in the manner of the saints who have preceded us for many generations. We ask to be renewed, refreshed, and transformed as we strive to do your work in the world. Loving God, we ask you to consecrate these gifts of bread and the cup, and to bless us with the presence of your Holy Spirit, that we may come to know you more fully, and to live as one body in Christ Jesus. We know that coming to this table is a blessing and a celebration of the gift of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Call to the Meal

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Partake in this holy meal for all things are ready.

All: We are blessed by and take in these gifts of God remembering that Christ Jesus died, was raised for us, and ascended to eternity.

The Distribution and 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 Jesus' Spirit as we received the gifts of bread and wine together in community. We are now ready to go into the world refreshed, transformed, and renewed as your disciples. Amen.

*All who are able, please stand.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #72
To God Be the Glory

UNISON BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #72

**All: In all that we do we will, to the best of our ability,
put you, Loving God, first in our lives through the
example of Christ Jesus. We will continue to give
thanks for our many gifts and blessings. Amen.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE Julie LaRocca

*^ Please feel free to change wording referring to God to
whatever language supports your faith.*



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New International Version

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*All who are able, please stand.

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