

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**JANUARY 5, 2025**

**10:00 A.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



### **CELEBRATING EPIPHANY (MONDAY, JAN. 6, 2025)**

#### **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**

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NIV)

#### ***The Glory of Zion***

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

**All: See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.**

One: Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**All: Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip.**

One: Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come.

**All: Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.**

**Let us worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

### **\*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #172

#### ***We Three Kings***

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of Graciousness, you chose us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless, yet we do not love all our brothers and sisters without exception as Jesus taught. We are of you, Loving God, your creation, yet we take our status for granted and**

\*All who are able, please stand.

sometimes fail to obey Christ Jesus when he calls us to follow. At times, we do not study your Word and do not have the wisdom and insight of how you want us to live in the world. Going forward into this new year, we ask that you help us set our hope on Christ Jesus so that we may live into your Righteousness and spread your Word through Christ Jesus' glory. Amen.

#### RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Let us love one another; for love is of God.

**All: When we love one another, God abides in us.**

One: God was made manifest to us when God sent Jesus, the Christ into the world.

**All: When we love one another, God abides in us.**

One: God loves us infinitely and unconditionally; God sent Jesus to be the payment for our sins.

**All: When we love one another, God abides in us. God's love transforms us and makes us whole. In God's love, our sins are forgiven. 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.

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

\*All who are able, please stand.

#### ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM *One Star* Senior Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman  
(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.)

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON Pew Bible NT p #2  
Large Print Bible NT p #2  
**Matthew 2:1-12**

MESSAGE "Road Trip!" Pastor Joanne

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #146 (vs. 1)

##### *From Heaven Above*

From heaven above to earth I come  
to bring good news to everyone!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to all the world, and gladly sing.

#### 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

\*All who are able, please stand.

*(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)*

**OFFERING: Affirmation By Touch for Our Offerings to God**

Sentence

Offertory **Three Kings, Take Five** 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 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 #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, a new year has dawned and we dedicate ourselves to you. We prepared for this dedication during the Advent season, will keep learning about you during the seasons leading up to Lent, and will further examine our faith when we come to the Lenten season. Our renewal and transformation by our holy meal gives us the responsibility to honor all people by way of your example of caring, non-judgmental love. As Christ Jesus' disciples, we are the ones**

*\*All who are able, please stand.*

**who step forth out of the safe water of Baptism to bring hope, to share a word of love and reconciliation, and to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives of those around us. We give thanks that you are within us and surround us with your universal power and love. Amen.**



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Communion Anthem**

Carol and Laurel Feindel

***Were You There That Christmas Night***

**The Invitation to the Table**

**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.**

*\*All who are able, please stand.*

## 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.

### GOING WITH THE WORD

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #167  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**BENEDICTION** adapted from Chalice Hymnal #167

One: Let us go and shout it from the mountaintops and everywhere that Jesus, our Savior, Light, Teacher, and Example is born.

**All:** We will spread the Light of Christ Jesus far and wide and continue to proclaim the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas and Christmastide. Amen.

### EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

### POSTLUDE

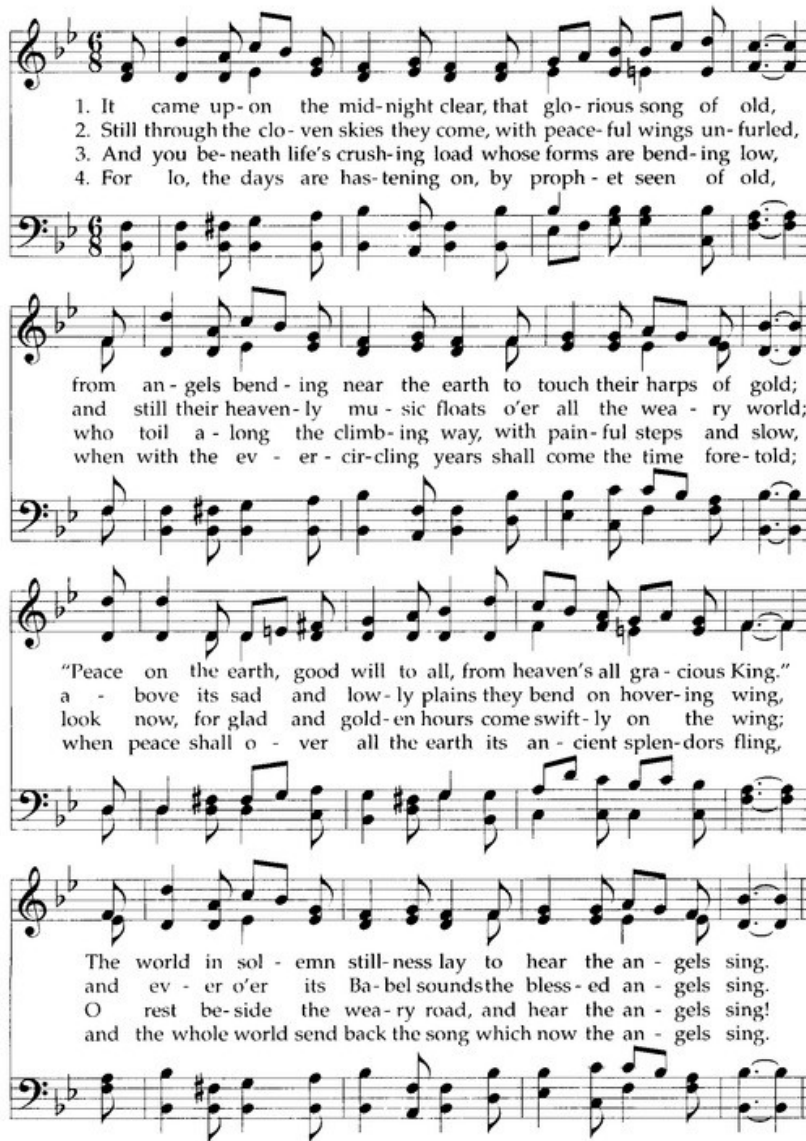
Julie LaRocca



\*All who are able, please stand.

JESUS CHRIST

## 153 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,  
2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3. And you be-neath life's crush-ing load whose forms are bend-ing low,  
4. For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,  
from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;  
who toil a-long the climb-ing way, with pain-ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav-en's all gra-cious King,"  
a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hover-ing wing,  
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,  
The world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing,  
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sound the bless-ed an-gels sing.  
O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!  
and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849  
MUSIC: Richard S. Willis, 1850

CAROL  
CMD

## What Child Is This

162

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, rich and poor, to own him,

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Christ-ian, fear: for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing,  
 the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

WORDS: William C. Dix, c. 1865  
 MUSIC: English melody (16th century)

GREENSLEEVES  
 87.87 w. refrain

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

**MUSIC:** Valentin Schumann's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

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

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\*All who are able, please stand.