

ORDER OF WORSHIP

JANUARY 12, 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



BAPTISM OF JESUS FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*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 Hymn #254

One: The breath of God fills us with life.

All: We gather to thank God for the blessing of life.

One: The breath of God fills us with love.

**All: We gather to thank God for the blessing of
unconditional love.**

One: Help us to be fully aware that God's unconditional love
surrounds us every day.

**All: We give God thanks and praise for the gifts of life and
love.**

It is our blessing to worship God with joy!

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #254

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving and Eternal God, wherever we look we see signs
of your presence. You have assured us of your saving
graciousness through Christ Jesus. In our prayer of
confession today we ask that, instead of anger and dislike
toward others, you help us to proclaim your goodwill for all
people. With your breath of life within us, please help us to
continue to pray for our enemies. As we pray for peace,
help us to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and let us
not take those freedoms for granted. We ask that you help
us in our discipleship to understand that you gave us the
gift of Christ Jesus to set all captives free. We give you
thanks. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: John the Baptist said in Luke 3:16: "I baptize you with
water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the

*All who are able, please stand.

straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Christ Jesus, who knows the intents of our hearts cleanses us of all sin. If we allow it, the unquenchable fire of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of God will keep us successful in our discipleship as we spread the love of God through Christ Jesus. Know without a doubt that we are washed clean and our sins are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #35

Glory Be to the Father

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

Come to the Water



THE RENEWING OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

HYMN Sing to the tune of: ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*** found on page 718 in the Chalice Hymnal.

Sing of God Made Manifest

**¹Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,
to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided
them,
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and
profound:**

*All who are able, please stand.

**myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king
foretold.**

**²Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John
confessed,**

**“I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do.”
Then from heaven a double sign – dove-like Spirit, voice
divine –**

hailed the true anointed One: “This is my beloved Son.”

**³Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding
guest**

**and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;
further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave, and
healed,
bringing light and life to all who would listen to God’s call.**

**⁴Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped
mountain’s crest,**

**where the Law and Prophets waned so that Christ alone
remained:
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face
toward the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God
would save.**

**LITURGY OF REDEDICATION FOR RENEWING BAPTISMAL
VOWS**

Pastor: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, God’s Spirit has been poured out upon the waters of the earth through the Sacrament of Baptism. We are blessed to receive the water of baptism whether this water is sprinkled on us, poured over us, or we are immersed in a body of water. This is water that flows freely for all who will receive it – water from the streams of God’s graciousness, water that brings hope to all who thirst for justice and peace,

*All who are able, please stand.

water that refreshes life, water that nurtures growth and offers new beginnings.

All: Today we come to the water of Baptism to renew in each other's presence our commitments to the Spirit who has birthed us, Jesus Christ who raised us up, and our Divine Parent who declares us "Beloved!" We ask that you bless this water for our use today.

Pastor: We, as Christ Jesus' disciples, are the ones 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 any brokenness in the lives of those around us.

All: Eternal God, you cast Light into the darkness, cast sin and doubt away, and call us your Beloved Ones. As Jesus knelt in the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed him as your child, pointing to him and his teaching as the way to your new life for all creation.

Pastor: Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of hope and peace, and embraced in the warmth of God's love and promises – hear God's Good News: our sins are forgiven.

All: Blessed and taught by Jesus about Righteousness, God's "Recipe for Life," called to service in the name of God, and filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are God's people. Thanks be to God!

INVITATION TO REMEMBER AND RENEW OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS



(Children will now be dismissed for Church School.)

*All who are able, please stand.

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON Pew Bible NT p #60
Large Print Bible NT p #84
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
"Co-creating with God!"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #373

Be in Our Midst, O Christ

Be in our midst, O Christ, for blessing
your sons and daughters loved by you.
They come, your glorious name confessing,
seeking fresh lives washed clean and new.

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

Senior Choir

*All who are able, please stand.

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 #46

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of Eternal Salvation, you have given us the gift of Christ Jesus, our Savior, Teacher, Example, and Friend. Your Holy Spirit abides with us as counselor and guide. The waters of baptism are a sign of your unconditional love, graciousness, and covenant with us. We dedicate our offerings of time, talent, and treasure as symbols of our faithfulness to you. We pray this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #357

We Call Ourselves Disciples

BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #357

One: As pilgrims on our life journey, let us go forth from here to serve God through Christ Jesus.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: We join with all disciples to live God's Word, to share a cup of water and bread with all in need, and to work for justice and peace. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



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Be in Our Midst, O Christ

WORDS: Colbert S. Cartwright, 1993

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

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CCLI #1326969

We Call Ourselves Disciples

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1984

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1836

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The Message Bible

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