

ORDER OF WORSHIP

JANUARY 26, 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



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY ANNUAL MEETING: 11:15 A.M. SOCIAL ROOM

*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 #487

One: We gather this morning to continue to learn how to live in this world according to God's Word.

All: As Christians we give thanks for God's teaching through Christ Jesus.

One: As a faith community we will strive to choose and practice acceptance as we care for all people.

All: According to Christ Jesus' example, we will love all people as we find them or as they may become.

One: God is still speaking!

All: We will practice seeing with new eyes and helping people with new hands, as God's Holy Spirit renews us and unites us as the Body of Christ.

It is our blessing to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #487

Help Us Accept Each Other

(please sing to the tune of Chalice Hymnal #357 We Call Ourselves Disciples)

Help Us Accept Each Other

**¹Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**²Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.**

**³Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;**

*All who are able, please stand.

to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

⁴Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Eternal God, we confess that we have not acknowledged you as the source of our successes, our wealth and blessings, our selves. We have been far more ready to complain when things go wrong than to praise when all is well. We have fed our bodies a rich diet while neglecting to feed our souls. Over and over again, power and wealth have assumed greater importance to us than sensitivity and service to your Word as taught by Christ Jesus in example and as teacher. We have allowed religious words and rules to substitute for living encounters with everyone you have created and have called us to love. Forgive us please, our Creator of unconditional love, and grant us the opportunity to start over again in this new week. We ask that you keep us from repeating the mistakes of the past or keep us from new evils that could be poised to mislead or destroy. In the name of Christ Jesus, we offer our earnest prayers for pardon and deliverance. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The good news in Christ Jesus is that God offers us new life at every moment, forgiving us, and inviting us to the freshness of new beginnings. Let us praise our God of graciousness!

*All who are able, please stand.

***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

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS Pew Bible OT p #426
Large Print Bible OT p #647
Ezra 7:6-10
Pew Bible OT p #436
Large Print Bible OT p #664
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
"To Become Whole Again"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #550 (vs. 4)
There's Within My Heart a Melody
Though sometimes he leads through waters deep,
trials fall across the way,
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,
see his footprints all the way.

*All who are able, please stand.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus – sweetest name I know,
fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.

praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

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

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;***

*All who are able, please stand.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Loving God, through Christ Jesus you invite us to follow and to become fishers of others in order to bring them to your light and love. You equip us with spiritual gifts in order to do this work of discipleship. As we go out to serve you, we ask that you receive the results of our efforts in your name. Please shed light to our path as we do your work and bring your soul-warming to others. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #560

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #560

One: Our paths this week will grow brighter and brighter
when we lean on Christ Jesus' everlasting arms.

All: **We will give thanks as we walk in God's pilgrim way.
Amen.**

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



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Help Us Accept Each Other

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974

MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977

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CCLI #1326969

*All who are able, please stand.

We Call Ourselves Disciples

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1984

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1836

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The Message Bible

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Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV

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