

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**MARCH 23, 2025**

**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 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 IN LENT FOUNDATIONS: USING OUR CHURCH PUZZLE CHURCH SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT**

*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 Chalice Hymnal #494

One: We are blessed to be here to worship with one another as the Body of Christ.

**All: We will worship, do God's work in the world, and spread God's love side by side united as Christians in God's love.**

One: Let us praise God, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

**All: We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

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

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #494

***They'll Know We Are Christians***

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Loving God, through you Christ Jesus is our hope, joy and salvation; we thank you for such a great blessing. We worship here in this sacred space united by your love and seeking to be cleansed of any wrongdoings. We confess that sometimes there are other things that we worship, instead of worshipping you alone. Life makes its demands on us and we push you to the margins when we do not intend to do that. Forgive us please for sometimes having small minds and mistaken priorities. We ask that you restore in us the sense of your greatness and your ultimate claim upon our lives. We pray this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**Irene:** Let us remember that we have God's saving graciousness through Christ Jesus' sacrifice on the cross on our behalf. In Ephesians 1:10 Paul writes that God asks

\*All who are able, please stand.

us to “unite all things in God, things in heaven and things on earth under Christ.” Therein lies our assurance of pardon. 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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** Lee Carman  
*(Children will be dismissed to accompany teachers and Lee Carman)*

**NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON**  
Large Print Pew Bible NT p #4  
**Matthew 5:16**

**HYMN WORDS** Chalice Hymnal #492  
***Many Are the Lightbeams***

**MESSAGE** Cassie Miller and Bryan Forst  
**“Foundations: Using Our Church Puzzle”**  
Board of Trustees  
Stewardship Committee, Ushers, Worship Visioning Team

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #492 (vs. 3)

\*All who are able, please stand.

***Many Are the Lightbeams***

Many are the gifts giv’n, love is all one.

Love’s the gift of Jesus.

Many are the gifts giv’n, love is all one; we are one in Christ.

**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*

\*All who are able, please stand.

*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: Eternal God of Salvation, you give us love that endures forever. You bless us with abundant gifts and kindness. Our lives with your surrounding love are like a banquet that always has available food and drink. What we offer in return is but a portion of what you have given, but we offer it with love, joy, and thanksgiving. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #495 (2x)  
***Weave***

**UNISON BENEDICTION**

**All: We go from our time of worship as a tapestry of Christians woven together in our faith community with unity and love. Amen.**

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

**RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE**

Julie LaRocca



\*All who are able, please stand.

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***They'll Know We Are Christians***

**WORDS and MUSIC:** Peter Scholtes, 1966

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***Many Are the Lightbeams***

**WORDS:** *De unitate ecclesiae*, Cyprian of Carthage, 252; tr. Anders Frostenson, 1972, 1986

**MUSIC:** Olle Widestrand, 1974; harm. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994  
Tr. and music © 1986 Verbum Forlag AB, used by permission of GIA Publications, Inc.; harm. © 1995 Chalice Press  
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***Weave***

**WORDS and MUSIC:** Rosemary Crowe, 1979

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***The Message Bible***

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\*All who are able, please stand.

**Ellington Congregational Church, UCC**

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<b>Lee Carman</b>	<b>Director of Faith Formation</b>
<b>Caroline Takach</b>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<b>Maggie Kutscher</b>	<b>Substitute Office Administrator</b>
<b>Cheyenne West</b>	<b>Little Sparks Nursery Attendant</b>
<b>Betsy Cottle (volunteer)</b>	<b>Church Clerk</b>
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