

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**MARCH 30, 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



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
OPEN AND AFFIRMING PULPIT SUNDAY  
FOUNDATIONS: USING OUR CHURCH PUZZLE  
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE  
CONGREGATION**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### \*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 34

One: We will extol the Lord at all times; the Lord's praise will always be on our lips. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt the Lord's name together.

**All: We sought the Lord and the Lord answered us; the Lord delivered us from all our fears. Those who look to the Lord are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.**

One: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

**All: Righteous people may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers us from them all. The Lord will rescue the Lord's servants; no one who takes refuge in the Lord will be condemned.**

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

### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### \*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #284

*Gather Us In*

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving God, our Rock and our Redeemer, you are the source of our deliverance. Your name remains upon our lips. Too many times we worship idols of our own making; when temptation overtakes us we sometimes submit to its charm. We find it easier to grumble at hardships than to praise you for your kindness and the blessings we receive day to day. Too often we test you in every way. Forgive us when we take advantage of your loving nature; we ask that you restore us to communion with you. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

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

**Pastor:** Brothers and Sisters, remember that in 1 Corinthians 10:13, the apostle Paul tells us that "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, God will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." Christ Jesus is the foundation of our salvation; therein lies the assurance that 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**

**FOUNDATIONS MOMENTS: USING OUR CHURCH PUZZLE**

Board of Christian Education

### **ENGAGING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM**

**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#25  
**Matthew 22:34-40**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON**

Large Print Pew Bible NT p#163  
**Romans 15:5-7**

**MESSAGE** Brian Cocuzzo and Pastor Joanne  
**"Living the Journey:" Learning More About What It Means to Be Open and Affirming**

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #241 (vs. 4)  
*Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

Holy Spirit, Peace divine, still this restless heart of mine.  
Speak to calm this tossing sea, grant me your tranquility.

**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

\*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 #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: Loving God, we ask that you accept our offerings of praise and thanksgiving as well as these tangible gifts of food and treasure. They are symbols of our response to your call to repentance and our earnest desire to become more faithful steward-servants in your name. Amen.**

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### \*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #241 (vv. 1, 2, 3, 5)  
***Holy Spirit, Truth Divine***

## UNISON BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #284

**All: We go out with thanksgiving that new light is shining within us. God's fire of love is in our flesh and our bones. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

### RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



### COPYRIGHTS

#### ***Gather Us In***

**WORDS and MUSIC:** Marty Haugen, 1981

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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>Juliane LaRocca</b>	<b>Director of Music</b>
<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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