

ORDER OF WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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.

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



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY BLACK HISTORY MONTH SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*(Our church welcomes to Communion all people of all ages
who desire to follow God through 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

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

(The Christ in me sees the Christ in you.)

*All who are able, please stand.

INTROIT

Chalice Hymnal #176

*Sing to the tune of: **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

Sing of God Made Manifest

**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.**

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Oh, come let us sing to the Lord.

**All: Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our
salvation.**

One: For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all.

**All: For he is our God, and we are the people of God's
pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Let us worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #595

Be Thou My Vision

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Eternal God of Salvation, through Christ Jesus you have
shown us how to fight for justice, love kindness, and to
walk humbly with you in righteousness. More often than
we would like to admit, we do not fight injustice as we
should. We know, loving God, that there are too many who
are hungry, too many who are oppressed for trying to be
who you created them to be, and too much happening to**

**All who are able, please stand.*

destroy the earth. We ask that you deliver us from our times of weakness, let your light shine out to others through us, and fill us with your splendor. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The assurance of our forgiveness lies in Christ Jesus. In Philippians, chapter 2 we read, “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.” Today, Christ Jesus intercedes and kneels before God on behalf of human weakness. Therein lies our assurance that we 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.**

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Choir

We Remember You

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

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON Pew Bible NT p #35
Large Print Bible NT p #49
Mark 1:29-39

*All who are able, please stand.

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

What On Earth Is Going On?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal ##518 (vs. 4)

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

In faith we gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things 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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

Senior Choir

(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)

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

Sentence

Offertory

Julie LaRocca

*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: Eternal God, you give us wisdom and guide our actions. May the fruits of our actions in your name nourish others. May the wisdom you give us help us to lead others to you in Christ Jesus' name. We have received an abundance of your graciousness and kindness. We ask that you accept our offerings as we go into the world to do your mission in discipleship. We praise your name in all that we accomplish. Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #425

Let Us Break Bread Together

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All who are able, please stand.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Gathering around the Table as we celebrate new life being born, we remember many stories shared around tables; tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out, where families gather and generations share, where stories are remembered, refined, and reshaped.

All: Thanks be to God!

Gathering around the Table, it is a blessing to remember the story of the Holy One, the Sacred Spirit, daring to share our life and the Light of God. It is the story of the Holy One, the Sacred One, donning human flesh and dwelling among us; a story that is at once both of heaven and of earth.

All: Glory be to God in the highest!

Gathering around the Table now, we break the bread and remember this paradox: it is in our brokenness that we become whole. We also fill this cup and remember the abundance we each discover when we share our sacred stories.

All: Thanks be to God!

Together, around the Table, we pray:

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened, that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst; indeed, in one another. Holy Spirit, thank you for coming to us. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*All who are able, please stand.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Loving God, you have been present with us throughout our service and have renewed and transformed us with this sacred meal. We give you thanks! We will strive to remember whose we are at all times. When we gather at other tables with friends, loved ones, and perhaps strangers, we will know that God, Christ, and Holy Spirit are with us there as well as here. We will go from here fed, nourished, and joy-filled! Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #614

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #614

One: We have been renewed with Holy Communion and we will live so God can use us at all times to do God's work through Christ Jesus here on earth.

All: We will live, work, pray, and sing God's songs and through Christ Jesus, we will do God's mission and ministry here on earth.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

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Sing of God Made Manifest

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

MUSIC: Jacob Hintze, 1678; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (18th century)

Words © 1990 Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1326969

Be Thou My Vision

WORDS: Irish Song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

*All who are able, please stand.

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

CCLI #1326969

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

© 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1326969

Let Us Break Bread Together

WORDS: African-American spiritual

MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964, alt.

Arr. © 1965 The United Methodist Publishing House

CCLI #1326969

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

WORDS: African-American spiritual

MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Bill Thomas, 1994

Arr. © 1995 Chalice Press

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