

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**FEBRUARY 18, 2024**

**10:00 A.M.**

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**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



### **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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

**PRELUDE**

Julie LaRocca

**WELCOME**

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

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

\*All who are able, please stand.

**INTROIT** (Isaiah 53)

Chalice Hymnal #213 (vs. 3)

***Who Would Ever Have Believed It?***  
Though our sins let him be wounded,  
though our cruelty left him beaten,  
yet through how and why he suffered,  
God revealed our hope of healing.

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Psalm 25:1-10

One: We have come to lift up our souls to God, in whom we trust.

**All: We shall learn God's ways and walk God's path.**

One: Let us open our hearts and minds to be led in God's truth, for God is our Salvation.

**All: We have come to give thanks that all the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness; we shall strive to keep our Covenant with God.**

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

**\*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #589

***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian***

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of the Covenant, we know that you are always near and surround us with love. You call us to be disciples of Christ Jesus. Yet, we resist the basin and towel of discipleship and do not always live into our part of the Covenant. All too often we are not good stewards of your creation. You place much trust in us to be good stewards and disciples; we ask that you help us each day to be worthy of that trust. Dear God, we ask that you forgive our**

\*All who are able, please stand.

shallow ways and help us to serve you wherever you choose to send us. We pray this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

### RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Let us love one another; for love is of God.

**All: When we love one another, God abides in us.**

One: God was made manifest to us when God sent Jesus, the Christ into the world.

**All: When we love one another, God abides in us.**

One: God loves us infinitely and unconditionally; God sent Jesus to be the payment for our sins.

**All: When we love one another, God abides in us. God's love transforms us and makes us whole. In God's love and through God's Covenant, 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!**

### LENTEN PRACTICE: LEARNING A NEW HYMN

*I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

Chalice Hymnal #529

### ENGAGING THE WORD

**ANTHEM**

Senior Choir

*Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Lee Carman

*(Children will be dismissed for Church School.)*

\*All who are able, please stand.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Pew Bible NT p #7  
Large Print Bible NT p #11

**Genesis 9:8-17**

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne

**“You Pick the Sermon Title”**

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

Chalice Hymnal #581 (vs. 2)

***Near to the Heart of God***

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;  
a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
hold us who wait before you near to the heart of God.

**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

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

Sentence

Offertory

Chris Pettigrew

\*All who are able, please stand.

## ***Ain't Got Time to Die***

### **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: We give thanks that the transfigured Jesus taught us how to live God's Way in Righteousness and Love. God of the Covenant, we ask that you transform our offerings into work for justice for all people no matter who they are or where they are on their journey through life. We ask that you transform our time into service for others, our talents into acts of ministry, and ourselves into expressions of faithfulness. We pray this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **GOING WITH THE WORD**

### **\*HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #495 (2X)

***Weave***

\*All who are able, please stand.

**UNISON BENEDICTION** adapted from Chalice Hymnal #495

**All: We are woven together in Covenant with God and with one another. It is in knowing that God is always with us in unconditional love that we go from our beautiful church nourished and ready to do God's ministry in the world. Amen.**

## **EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

## **CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Chalice Hymnal #677

### ***Let There Be Peace on Earth***

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

**With God our Creator, children all are we.**

**Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.**

**With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace  
eternally.**

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Julie LaRocca



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***Who Would Ever Have Believed It?***

**WORDS:** Iona Community, 1988

**MUSIC:** Swedish melody

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CCLI #1326969

***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian***

**WORDS:** African-American spiritual

**MUSIC:** African-American spiritual; harm. Larry Sivis, 1993

Harm. © 1995 Chalice Press

CCLI #1326969

\*All who are able, please stand.

**Weave**

**WORDS and MUSIC:** Rosemary Crow, 1979  
© 1979 Rosemary Crow; used by permission  
CCLI #1326969

**Let There Be Peace on Earth**

**WORDS:** Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955  
**MUSIC:** Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, 1955; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987  
© 1955, renewed, 1983, Jan-Lee Music  
CCLI #1326969

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