

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 10, 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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*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 (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**

One: Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

All: Only in God do we find our rest.

One: Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

All: Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known to the public.

One: Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

All: Other days we struggle with temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

One: Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

All: Come, let us worship God together! Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2023)

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #97

Fairest Lord Jesus

*All who are able, please stand.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good and that which is hurtful and hateful.

**We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.
We love with condition.**

We judge and condemn.

**We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.
We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.**

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in Love and service. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In Christ, the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. We are reminded of your great love, that while we were yet sinners, you died for us. When we come to God in repentance, He promises to always love and forgive us, even when we don’t follow His way or when we do things that hurt others. God’s grace is sufficient in all things. 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

Chalice Hymnal #93

Praise Him!

ENGAGING THE WORD

*All who are able, please stand.

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

(Children will be dismissed for Church School.)

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Pew Bible NT p #18

Large Print Bible NT p #25

Matthew 16:13-20

MESSAGE

Irene Mosher

“Who do you say that He Is?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Published in Salvation Army Song book 1986 and 2015

Come Beautiful Christ

Come Beautiful Christ

Radiate Thy Beauty in Me

Tis Thee I adore, what can I ask more

Than to live for Thee, beautiful Christ.

IN OUR PRAYERS AND SILENT MEDITATION

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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.**

*All who are able, please stand.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Senior Choir

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 #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: Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you that we can always trust in You. You are an abundant God and out of your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it we worship you and give our whole selves to you. Please now take it and use it for Your kingdom and your glory.

GOING WITH THE WORD***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #602

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

*All who are able, please stand.

UNISON BENEDICTION

All: Gracious Father, watch over us as we go our separate ways. May your love be a reality in our lives and may others see you living in us. May we constantly strive to learn from you and be of service for you. 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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Come Beautiful Christ

Salvation Army Owned

Published in Salvation Army Song book 1986 and 2015

Now in Public Domain

*All who are able, please stand.

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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

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CCLI #1326969

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