ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 31, 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



EASTER SUNDAY

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

PRELUDE

Senior Bell Choir

Easter Joy

WELCOME

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

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

Chalice Hymnal #222

*UNISON INTROIT Chalice Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days. Christ is risen; hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning, See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not as servant, but as friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

- One: Christ has risen.
- All: Christ has risen indeed.
- One: God is alive ...
- All: New birth is given.
- One: Hope is alive ...
- All: A new age is dawning.
- One: Joy is alive ...
- All: Redemption is here.
- One: Love is alive ...
- All: Death cannot harm us.
- One: We are alive ...
- All: New life is within us.
- One: The church is alive ...

All: God's spirit is within us.
God of life, we worship you.
God of creation, we praise you.
God of revelation, we learn from you.
God of resurrection, we are here to celebrate you.

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*OPENING HYMN Chalice Hymnal #216 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS ON EASTER DAY

Pastor: God never abandons us! In the resurrection we are not only promised eternal life with God, but also the assurance that we can have an intimate relationship with God every day of our lives. Just as springtime blossoms forth, we are also promised new life in Christ Jesus. Because of God's graciousness, we may have the gift of renewal and transformation every moment of our lives. A wonderful blessing indeed. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Chalice Hymnal #224

Christ Arose! (refrain)

Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; he arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM In Christ Alone Senior Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

Pew Bible NT p #114 NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON Large Print Bible NT p #163

John 20:1-18

MESSAGE	Pastor Joanne
	How Do We Practice Resurrection?

ANTHEM Joy in the Morning Senior Choir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

As Psalm 118 proclaims: "This is the day the Lord has made," therefore, "Let us rejoice and be glad in it." God has given us so much – night and day, sun and rain, moon and stars, one another. Prayer will ease our burdens so that we can be genuinely happy for this Easter day and for the dawning of every new day.

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.

OFFERING

Sentence Offertory **The Trumpet Shall Sound** Matt Ramos, Tigger Kluessendorf, Julie LaRocca

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 #218

Thine Is the Glory (refrain) Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION All: Eternal God of Salvation, we come to you with

abounding joy, constantly transformed by your love. Through Christ Jesus you have broken the bonds of

oppression and removed any imagined barriers to your unending love. All our lives long we shall call your name blessed and give you thanks and glory for the gift of life and all it contains. Amen.

GOING OUT WITH WORD AND PRAISE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #226

He Lives!

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Let us burst forth from any cocoons that entrap us.

- All: We will fly free as the butterfly.
- One: In that freedom, let us go in peace, go in joy, and go in love. Christ has risen!
- All: Christ has risen indeed!

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

Low in the Grave



Musicians: Charles Wasserman, cello, Ben Bolduc, trumpet, Tigger Kluessendorf, trumpet, Dave Robert, violin

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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