

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 7, 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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 133 (Message Bible)

One: How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along! It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard,

All: flowing down Aaron's beard, flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.

One: It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion.

All: Yes, that's where God commands the blessing and ordains eternal life.

Let us worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #227

In the Garden

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God of Salvation, you are the source of our refuge and strength. We ask that you help us to remember that strength when we are tempted to stray onto paths that would imperil us. All too often we find ourselves in situations that we should not have pursued; we ask for your forgiveness when we have hurt others in that pursuit. Please let us always honor Jesus' life, passion, death, and resurrection, and ascension. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God of Infinite Love, every day you give us more blessings than we can count, and we are grateful. The greatest blessing you gave to us was your Son, Jesus, the Christ. He is the source of healing, the giver of wholeness, and brought the Light from you that illumines our hearts and

*All who are able, please stand.

souls. Because of Christ Jesus and his sacrifice, our sins have been and are forgiven! We give you thanks. 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.)

NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE LESSON

Pew Bible NT p #238

Large Print Bible NT p #343

1 John 1:1-2:2

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Pew Bible NT p #114

Large Print Bible NT p #163

John 20:19-31

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

Jesus' Followers and Their Transformation into Community

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day, with its shadow o'er me.*

*All who are able, please stand.

This beautiful hymn from our Chalice Hymnal reminds us that Jesus' Resurrection brings us unconditional love and hope from God. The Resurrection empowers us to have an intimate relationship with God through prayer. When we pray, God will listen!

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

(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)

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

Sentence

Offertory

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!

**All who are able, please stand.*

***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: Loving God, you promise your peace through the gift of your son, Jesus, the Christ. Alive with your spirit, we are sent forth to serve. We offer you now the fruits of our labors and ask that you help us to use them wisely as we carry out your ministry in the world. Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #425

Let Us Break Bread Together

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: 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!

Leader: 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 who are able, please stand.

All: Glory be to God in the highest!

Leader: 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!

Leader: 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

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**

Insert

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

*All who are able, please stand.

UNISON BENEDICTION

We have been renewed and cleansed through Holy Communion. Let us go from here nourished by God and the presence of one another knowing that the risen Jesus lovingly meets and greets us wherever we are on our faith journey. We leave here knowing that nothing is impossible for us with God through Christ Jesus. We leave here thankful for our many blessings. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (seated)

Chalice Hymnal #106 (vs. 1 & 2)

Alleluia

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Christ is risen, alleluia, Christ is risen, alleluia,
Christ is risen, alleluia, Christ is risen, alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



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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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

The New Century Hymnal, 1994

CCLI #1326969

Alleluia

WORDS: Jerry Sinclair, 1972, alt.

MUSIC: Jerry Sinclair, 1972

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CCLI #1326969

*All who are able, please stand.

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