

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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**May 5, 2024**

**10:00 A.M.**

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**Welcome to Worship** at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We are 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



### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (EASTERTIDE) ASCENSION OF CHRIST JESUS: MAY 9 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**

***Morning Has Broken***

Robin Miller

**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**

adapted from Psalm 98 (*Message Bible*)

One: We will sing to God a brand-new song because God has made a world of wonders.

**All: God made history with salvation. God showed the world what God could do.**

One: Let us all shout our praises to God! Let us round up an orchestra to play for God and add on a hundred voice choir.

**All: We will let loose and sing! We will fill the air with praises to God. All the earth will join in. Halleluia! We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

### **\*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #16

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Eternal God, Maker of both the smallest that exists and the largest that exists, you have spread a wondrous universe before us to care for and explore. Each day overflows with the richness of life: with growing green and bursting blossoms, with relationships which nurture and challenge, with missions accomplished and justice to be done. Every day is full of your meaning. And yet, many times we do not see this. We complain of boredom when there is so much around us that we could be doing. Or we are so busy that we lose track of your presence and calling. Too often we scurry here and there without appreciation, delight, or much sense of purpose. We ask that you call us out of emotional poverty into the richness of life lived in**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**love. Please move us toward you, Loving God, and toward one another in nurturing love and peace. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** The Good News in Christ Jesus is that God offers us life at every moment, forgiving us and inviting us into the freshness of new beginnings. Let us continue to praise our God of nurture, graciousness, and love. Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus, 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!**

**ASCENSION OF CHRIST JESUS**

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Lee Carman

*(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.)*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Pew Bible NT p #129

Large Print Bible NT p #184

**Acts 10:34-48**

**MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne

**"Including the Excluded"**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**      Chalice Hymnal #576 (vs. 1)

### ***My Faith Looks Up to Thee***

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior  
divine!

Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away;  
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

## **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

***Living Hope***

Robin Miller

## **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*

\*All who are able, please stand.

*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, your presence through Christ Jesus continues to guide us as we pursue the paths of your Righteousness and discipleship. All that we have is a gift of your graciousness. As we offer our gifts to you, please accept them as signs of our commitment to Christ Jesus. May all that we do be done with praise because of your blessed loved for us. Amen.**



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #387

***Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken***

**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!**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**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: 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.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## GOING WITH THE WORD

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

Chalice Hymnal # 433

***Blest Be the Tie that Binds***

### **RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (seated)**

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #433

One: We are blessed beyond measure that our hearts are bound together in unity as Christ Jesus' body here on earth.

**All: No matter where we go or what we do, we will always be united as Christians who help to do God's work in the world. Thanks be to God. 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**

Robin Miller

***O Lord How Manifold Are Thy Works***



\*All who are able, please stand.

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***Alleluia***

**WORDS:** Jerry Sinclair, 1972, alt.

**MUSIC:** Jerry Sinclair, 1972

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