

ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 25, 2025

10:00 A.M.

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 and place it in the offering plate during the Offertory time.

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)
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
ASCENSION OF CHRIST JESUS: MAY 29**

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

PRELUDE

Julie LaRocca

WELCOME

Ascension of Christ Jesus

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Psalm 67 (CEB)

One: We have gathered this day to ask God to grant us
God’s graciousness and to bless us.

All: We thank you, God of Salvation.

One: We celebrate and shout with joy because you bless
and guide all nations on the earth.

**All: We thank you, our God of Salvation and Creation.
We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and
joy!**

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #701

Shall We Gather at the River

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 GOD'S 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, Peace, and Love. Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus, our sins are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #224 (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!*

***GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE AND
LOVE OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS**

A TRIBUTE FOR MEMORIAL DAY

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.)

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #136
Acts 16:9-15

*All who are able, please stand.

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

"A 'Helpful' Vision"

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)

A Prayer For the Nation

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our
heritage.

Make us always remember your generosity and let us
constantly do your will.

Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education,
and an honorable way of life.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from
pride and arrogance and from every evil course of
action.

Make us who came from many nations with many
different languages a united people.

Defend our liberties and give those whom we have
entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of
wisdom,

that there might be justice and peace in our land.

When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful;
and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail.

*All who are able, please stand.

**We ask all this through Jesus Christ who taught us to
pray by saying:**

**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

OFFERING

Sentence

Offertory

Julie LaRocca

America the Beautiful

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.***

*All who are able, please stand.

***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 love for us.
Amen.**

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #722

This Is My Song

BENEDICTION (seated)

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



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This Is My Song

WORDS: St. 1, 2, Lloyd Stone, 1934; st. 3, Georgia Harkness, c. 1939, alt.

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933

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A Prayer for the Nation

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