

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 1, 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

### **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (EASTERTIDE)**

#### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*(Our church welcomes to Communion all people of all ages who desire to learn about 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**

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

### **\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Psalm 97 (*The Message Bible*)

One: God rules: *there’s* something to shout about!

**All: Let the earth rejoice. Everyone celebrate!**

One: Bright clouds and storm clouds circle ‘round him;  
Right and Justice anchor his rule.

**All: Daughters of Zion, sing your hearts out: God has done it all, has set everything right.**

One: Light-seeds are planted in the souls of God’s people,  
Joy-seeds are planted in good heart-soil.

**All: So, God’s people, shout praise to God, give thanks to our Hoy God!**

**We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

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

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

Chalice Hymnal #564

*He Touched Me*

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All:** Caring and Compassionate Creator, we enter this place set apart for your worship, knowing that we have failed to see you in other places. Too often, we have ignored your beauty around us, in earth and sky, in plants and creatures, in the people who surround us. We have chosen to live more by our fears than by our faith, to be weighed down by what we do not have, rather than rejoicing in your gifts to us. In these moments together, draw us so close that we cannot help but know every day that you are with us, wherever we go. We ask that you increase our capacity to care, so we may see you in all whom we meet. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

\*All who are able, please stand.

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## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** When we contemplate God's law, we learn of God's love and God's Right Way for Living. God's generous care protects all of us and the earth. When we gather to worship, sing and pray, we are made whole by God through the redeeming love of Jesus, the Christ. Because of this, we can be assured of God's forgiveness. 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!**

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

## ENGAGING THE WORD

**ANTHEM** Senior Choir  
***At the Table***

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Lee Carman  
*(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.)*

**NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON**  
Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #136  
**Acts 16:16-34**

**REFLECTION** Pastor Joanne  
**"Maximum Security"**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #585 (vs. 2)

***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in  
prayer!

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows  
share?

Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in  
prayer!

## 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

***Let Us Break Bread Together***

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **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: Loving God, you send us into the world to spread the joy of new life. We ask that you accept our efforts and make them productive in fulfilling your Righteousness. Please enhance our gifts with the empowerment of your Holy Spirit. Let all that we do be done in faithfulness and with the love of Christ Jesus. Amen.**



## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Communion Hymn**

Chalice Hymnal #402

***According to Thy Gracious Word***

### **The Invitation to the Table**

#### **A Responsive Communion Liturgy**

Pastor: Called to the table, to share the wine and bread,  
"I want you to remember me," Jesus softly said.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

Pastor: We think about the mystery – the words that Jesus said, and how he gave his life for us as we break the bread.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

Pastor: Gathered at the table, God's Spirit in the air,  
We drink the cup of blessing, the bread of life we share.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

Pastor: Together in communion, one family – young and old, we celebrate together, as ancient words are told.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

Pastor: There's room at the table, no matter how we feel,  
Jesus reaches out to us in this holy meal.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

Pastor: We rise from the table, forgiven, loved, and free.  
We leave to be the people who God calls us to be.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

Pastor: Gathered at the table, surrounded by God's grace,  
We are one Christian family, in every time and place.

**All: Come, Come to the table.**

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### **Unison Prayer of Consecration**

**All: You have called us this day, Loving God, to share this time together in community. We are honored and blessed to share this Holy Meal in the manner of the saints who have preceded us for many generations. We ask to be renewed, refreshed, and transformed as we strive to do your work in the world. Loving God, we ask you to consecrate these gifts of bread and the cup,**

\*All who are able, please stand.

and to bless us with the presence of your Holy Spirit, that we may come to know you more fully, and to live as one body in Christ Jesus. We know that coming to this table is a blessing and a celebration of the gift of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### The Words of Institution

#### Call to the Meal

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Partake in this holy meal for all things are ready.

**All: We are blessed by and take in these gifts of God remembering that Christ Jesus died, was raised for us, and ascended to eternity.**

### The Distribution and Sharing of the Elements

#### Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Loving God, we give thanks to you for blessing us with this life-giving Communion meal. We are grateful that you love us unconditionally. We listen to hear your words spoken to us, realizing those words are sometimes shouted, sometimes whispered, and sometimes given to us in unusual ways and places as we seek spiritual renewal throughout our lives. We are grateful for community and Communion together that energizes us for the call to continue your ministry through Christ Jesus. We thank you for the knowledge and the wisdom we have acquired here! Please let it be your will that what was learned will strengthen our minds and bodies for the fulfillment of our souls. We are blessed and give thanks that you guide us in many ways in all that we do. We pray this in Christ's name. Amen.**



\*All who are able, please stand.

### GOING WITH THE WORD

#### \*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #529

*I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me*

#### BENEDICTION

#### EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

#### POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



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*He Touched Me*

**WORDS and MUSIC:** William J. Gaither, 1963

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*I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me*

**WORDS:** African-American Spiritual

**MUSIC:** African-American Spiritual; harm. Richard Smallwood  
Harm. © 1977 Richwood Music  
CCLI #1326969

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\*All who are able, please stand.

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