

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 13, 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

### **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

### **SUMMER L.I.G.H.T. PROGRAM FOR OUR CHILDREN: LEARNING IN GOD’S HOUSE TOGETHER**

*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**

One: We gather in the heat of summer to praise God who loves us so much that God came to earth in human form. We have named that event Christmas.

**All: We gather to sing hymns of the Christmas season in appreciation of God’s unconditional love and graciousness in sending Jesus to us.**

One: It is a blessing and a joy to hear the story of Jesus’ birth and to remember that we are loved by God as God’s children.

**All: It is a beautiful story and one that fills our soul at any time of the year. We are blessed to worship God through Christ Jesus with thanksgiving and joy!**

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

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #148

***O Come All Ye Faithful***

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Loving and Eternal God, we give you thanks that you are compassionate with us and show us such graciousness. We ask for your forgiveness when you send your Holy Spirit and we ignore your guidance. You sent Jesus as savior, example, and teacher, yet we do not always learn our lessons. We sing of peace on earth, yet we have failed to achieve it. We ask your forgiveness when we misuse your graciousness and ask you to guide us as we continue to live into God’s Righteousness. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

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## **ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** God, who is loving, eternal, just, and gracious has sent Christ Jesus into the world to redeem us from our sins and help us live into God’s Righteousness. As we turn to God with repenting hearts, Christ Jesus intercedes on our behalf. It is with assurance that I say to you, “In Christ Jesus we are forgiven.” Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #153 (vs. 4)

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of  
old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold;  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

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

### **ENGAGING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM** Julie LaRocca, Adam Geiger  
**Christmas Sanctus**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** “The Box” Lee Carman  
(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman for  
the one-room schoolhouse Summer L.I.G.H.T. program:  
*Learning in God’s House Together.*)

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **SCRIPTURE/MESSAGE/CAROLS**

### **NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON**

Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #56

**Luke 1:5 – 2:20**

**SONG OF MARY (Magnificat)**

Julie LaRocca

**SONG OF ZECHARIAH**

Adam Geiger

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #127 (vs. 4)

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

At your great name, O Jesus, now  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
all things on earth with one accord,  
like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

### **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.**

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL RESPONSE**

Chalice Hymnal #162 (vs. 1)

*What Child Is This*

**What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is  
sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while  
shepherds watch are keeping?**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard  
and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of  
Mary.**

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

Sentence

Offertory Julie LaRocca, Adam Geiger

***When the Angels' Song Is Silent***

**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 #162 (vs. 3)

***What Child Is This***

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, rich, and poor, to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of  
Mary.**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #143

***Joy to the World***

\*All who are able, please stand.

**RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION**

One: We rejoice because love is our song, our prayer,  
and our endless story.

**All: God will fill everyday with blessings, the most  
important blessing being the child called  
Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.**

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

**POSTLUDE**

Julie LaRocca

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***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

**WORDS:** John Francis Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

**MUSIC:** John Francis Wade, 1743; desc. David Willcocks, 1961

Desc. © 1961 Oxford University Press

CCLI #1326969

***Song of Mary (Magnificat)***

**WORDS:** Luke 1:46b-55, ICET, rev. ELLC; Response, Miriam Therese Winter,  
1978, 1987

**MUSIC:** Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813; harm. Charles  
H., Webb, 1988

Response © 1978, 1987, Medical Mission Sisters; harm. © 1989 The United  
Methodist Publishing House

CCLI #1326969

***Song of Zechariah***

**WORDS:** Luke 1:68-79 (ICET, ELLC, alt.): Response Michael Perry, 1973

**MUSIC:** Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Response © 1973, music © 1983, Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1326969

***Creator of the Stars of Night***

**WORDS:** Latin hymn (ninth century); tr. as in *The Hymnal*, 1940, alt.

**MUSIC:** Plainsong, Mode IV; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1943, alt.

Tr. © 1940, renewed 1971, The Church Hymnal Corp.

CCLI #1326969

\*All who are able, please stand.

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<b>Lee Carman</b>	<b>Director of Faith Formation</b>
<b>Caroline Takach</b>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<b>Maggie Kutscher</b>	<b>Substitute Office Administrator</b>
<b>Cheyenne West</b>	<b>Little Sparks Nursery Attendant</b>
<b>Betsy Cottle</b>	<b>Volunteer Clerk</b>
<b>Lisa Sirag</b>	<b>Volunteer Historian</b>

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