

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 7, 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



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST RALLY SUNDAY: SOCIAL HOUR PICNIC, GAMES, AND OTHER EVENTS HERE AT THE CHURCH 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

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #294

One: On this Rally Sunday, it is wonderful that we
welcome all people to worship in this beautiful
sanctuary as we are united as the Body of Christ
Jesus.

**All: We gather as God’s people to celebrate a new
start for our church’s program year.**

One: We shall seek and greet each other bound together
by the love of God.

**All: It is a blessing to unite our voices in word, prayer,
and song.**

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

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #294 (2x)

Here We Gather as God’s People

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving God of Graciousness, we stand in need of
your forgiveness. We pray for new life as we confess
our old ways; ways that are not always in keeping with
your recipe for “The Right Way of Living.” Hope is
proclaimed, yet all too often we do not trust. We like
the sound of commitment, yet we treasure our
comfort. We ask that you forgive our reluctance to
embrace fully what you ask from us as your disciples
and renew our energy to do your work in the world.
Amen.**

*All who are able, please stand.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Christ Jesus was fully divine yet just as fully human as we are. Hebrews 5:8-10 tells us: "Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" As we have confessed our sins, Jesus is the source of our forgiveness. Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, with our trust in the Word of God, we are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #35

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

Bless This House

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

(Children and teachers will be dismissed for Church School.)

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #77

Luke 14:1-14

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

"An Exercise in Generosity?"

*All who are able, please stand.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #573 (vs. 2)

Purer in Heart, O God

Purer in heart, O God, help me to be;
teach me to do thy will most lovingly.

Be thou my friend and guide, let me with thee abide:
purer in heart, help me to be.

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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERING: Affirmation By Touch for Our Offerings to God

Sentence

Offertory ***All Are Welcome at the Table***

Julie LaRocca, Matt Ramos, Becky Hinckley, Adam Geiger

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

*All who are able, please stand.

a blessing to all who receive and a witness to Christ's love for the world. Thank you!

***DOXOLOGY** Chalice Hymnal #46

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Eternal God, your steadfast love for us endures forever. Knowing this, we come with thanksgiving and bring our offerings to you. You relieve our hunger and quench our thirst; you satisfy our needs. We commit ourselves to you and share what we have. We ask that you guide us as we use our time, talents, and treasure to continue your mission for the people of our community and the world. Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn Chalice Hymnal #330

Alleluia! Hear God's Story

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.

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 who are able, please stand.*

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, 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

**All who are able, please stand.*

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 #433

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

BENEDICTION

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

[†] Please feel free to change wording referring to God to whatever language supports your faith.



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Here We Gather as God's People

WORDS: Daniel B. Merrick, 1991

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The Message Bible

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*All who are able, please stand.

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