

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**September 14, 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



## **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

*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 Chalice Hymnal #339

One: Christ Jesus, Lamb of God, we come to you this morning to praise you.

**All: Loving God, through Christ Jesus we come to you just as we are.**

One: We give our fears, our burdens, and our doubts to you.

**All: Loving God, we come to you through Christ Jesus knowing that you welcome us, cleans us, and pardon us. We come to you. We are yours!**

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

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

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #339

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: God of mercy and patience, be with us this day.**

**Remind us again that our lives are meant to be gifts to others, for healing, hope, comfort, peace, and love. We ask that you forgive us when we get so caught up in the details of our lives that we neglect to help others.**

**Enlighten us again with your spirit and your words of healing love. We understand that caring and sharing are the hallmarks of discipleship with Christ Jesus. We ask that you give us hearts for joyful caring and sharing, for it is in Christ Jesus’ name that we offer this prayer to you. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

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## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** From Ephesians 2:13-14 we hear: "Now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace ... and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." As we dwell in Christ Jesus and Christ Jesus dwells in us, so let us also receive his forgiveness of our sins. 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**

**STEWARDSHIP TIME** Bryan Forst  
"Together We Give, Together We Grow"

## **ENGAGING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM** Senior Choir  
***I Prepare a Place***

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Lee Carman  
(Children and teachers will be dismissed for Church School.)

**NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON**  
Large Print Pew Bible NT p #78  
**Luke 15:11-32**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **MESSAGE**

Pastor Joanne

### **"Pretense and Recognition"**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #581 (vs. 2)

### ***Near to the Heart of God***

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;

a place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us who wait before you near to the heart of God.

## **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

Julie LaRocca

\*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 #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 of Love and Light, we offer these gifts to you along with our time and our creativity. They are but a small portion of the gifts you give to us in such abundance. We ask that you empower us to reach out to others and guide us to follow what you would have us do for our neighbors as we use these gifts for good. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### GOING WITH THE WORD

#### \*HYMN OF DEDICATION Chalice Hymnal #16

***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing***

### RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

**One: We have, in word and song, praised God for God's glory and for the triumphs of God's graciousness.**

**All: With God's help, we will go from here and spread God's Word far and wide. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

### POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

<sup>†</sup> Please feel free to change wording referring to God to whatever language supports your faith.

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***Tell It Slant: a conversation on the language of Jesus in his stories and prayers.***

Eugene H. Peterson, publishes 2008 by: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.  
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