

ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 30, 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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT ORGAN CONCERT: 3:00 PM - SANCTUARY

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

PRELUDE

Julie LaRocca

WELCOME

** Please feel free to change wording referring to God to whatever language supports your faith.*

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #138

One: On this first Sunday of Advent we give thanks that the blessed Baby, the Child of longing has been given as a gift from God.

All: Christ Jesus dwells within us; he has and will continue to bring all hearts together and to bring hope to all.

One: Love and hope will continue to be our song, our prayer, and our story.

All: We are blessed to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #138

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE

Advent 1: ***Hope***

~ Today’s candle is being lit by Ben and Charity West ~

One: Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation to celebrate a miracle whose symbolism has been repeated for hundreds of years. Yet, this great miracle astounds us anew each year.

All: Be not afraid. God’s hope is at hand.

One: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.

One: Believing in God's promises, we light the candle of hope.

All: Be not afraid, God's hope is at hand.

HYMN Chalice Hymnal #128 (vs. 1)
One Candle Is Lit



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Light, who shines in deepest darkness, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. At times we are frightened by your call; we sometimes draw back from taking chances. At times, we do not want to follow your Light because it might lead us into places where we do not feel comfortable or confident. We know you need us in these places, but we would rather not see the homeless, the hungry, and those who have been forgotten. Help us, Loving God, to remember you are always with us no matter where we go in this world. We ask that you let your Light shine through us as we minister to all people. Help us to bring hope into the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God was and is in Christ Jesus to reunite the world and to satisfy our hunger and thirst after Righteousness, God's Way to live a joy-filled life in this world. Jesus is the Bread of Life. All who humbly come to him and confess their sin will be filled with God's mercy and sustained by

*All who are able, please stand.

God's graciousness. Know and believe the Good News of God's love. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #130 (vs. 1)
My Soul Gives Glory to My God

My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Choir
How Quietly

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman
(Dismissal with Lee Carman for One-Room Schoolhouse.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Large Print Bible OT p. #631
Isaiah 2:1-5

MESSAGE Pastor Joanne
"Let's Walk By The Lord's Light"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #132 (vs.1)
When God Is a Child

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

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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

OFFERING: Affirmation By Touch for Our Offerings to God

Sentence

Offertory

Julie LaRocca

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

In the Bleak Midwinter
What can I give him, Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

*All who are able, please stand.

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him – Give my heart.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: God of Promise, you cause the Branch of Hope to
bud and flower; we offer you the fruits of our labors.
May we bring reassurance to all that you are, indeed,
the God of Hope. Please help us to use these offerings
wisely as we seek to live by your Word. We join with you
through Christ in the hope for peace, joy, and love
throughout the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #136

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: We are blessed on this first Sunday of the Advent
season to remember again the anticipation for
Christ Jesus' holy birth.

All: We give thanks that our souls have been stirred by
God's Word, by praise, and by music so that we
may walk in faith through the joys and demands
of life. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION AND EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

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Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1983

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CCLI #1326969

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One Candle Is Lit

WORDS: Mary Anne Parrott, 1988
MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1895
Words © 1995 Chalice Press
CCLI #1326969

When God Is a Child

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1985
MUSIC: Joan Collier Fogg, 1987
© 1989 Hope Publishing Co.
CCLI #1326969

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1978, 1987
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988
Words © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

In the Bleak Midwinter

From *The New Century Hymnal*
Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.
CCLI #1326969

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1993
MUSIC: Joshua Levitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830
Words © 1995 Chalice Press
CCLI #1326969

I Am the Light of the World!

WORDS: Jim Strathdee, 1969, in response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman
MUSIC: Jim Strathdee, 1969
© 1969 Desert Flower Music
CCLI #1326969

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV
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Common English Bible

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