

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 28, 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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*(Planned by Joanne Myer and Juliane LaRocca;
Facilitated by Irene Mosher)*

*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** (Paraphrase of Psalm 149)

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a song of praise in
the assembly of the faithful.

All: **For the Lord takes pleasure when the people of God
offer their praise and thanksgiving.**

One: Let us praise God’s name with dancing and making
melody with tambourine and lyre.

All: **Let the faithful exalt in glory; we will sing for joy and
let the high praises of God be in our throats.**

**We will worship God with thanksgiving and joy for the
coming new year!**

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #160

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: With new life all around us, dear God, we still hold fast
to old ways. Despite your promises, we seek self-assurance.
You send your Holy Spirit to enliven and empower our
existence. However, instead of being empowered, at times
the darkness of doubt dispels the new light the Holy Spirit
brings. We are afraid to admit what it might mean if we
surrendered our whole selves to you. We claim the
indwelling Spirit, yet we abide by our own counsel. Please,
forgive us and make us whole. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Irene: God sent Christ Jesus with the universal message of
salvation: “Whoever calls on Christ’s name will be saved.”
Brothers and Sisters, as Christians, trust that name and be
assured: In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven! Amen.

*All who are able, please stand.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #155 (vs. 4)

***Angels We Have Heard on High
See within a manger laid,
Christ whom choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

An Experience Of Lessons and Carols

(Please remain seated during the singing of the carols.)

CAROL ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** Chalice Hymnal #148

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about!’” (Luke 2:15, 20)

CAROL Chalice Hymnal #150

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

CAROL ***Sing We Now of Christmas***

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn’t want to

**All who are able, please stand.*

humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Emmanuel. (Emmanuel means “God with us.”) When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. (Matt. 1:18-24)

***Sing We Now of Christmas
Sing we now of Christmas,
Noel, sing we here!***

***Hear our grateful praises
to the babe so dear.***

[Refrain:]

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

***Angels called to shepherds,
“Leave your flocks at rest,
journey forth to Bethlehem,
find the lambkin blessed.”***

[Refrain:]

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

***In Bethlehem they found him,
Joseph and Mary mild,
seated by the manger,
watching the holy child.***

**All who are able, please stand.*

[Refrain:]

***Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!***

CAROL

Chalice Hymnal #153

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

(Luke 2:13-14)

You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. (John 13:13-15)

CAROL

Chalice Hymnal #167

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Announcement to Shepherds

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:8-12)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF MUSIC

All: Loving and Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of music and song, especially when we gather to worship you.

*All who are able, please stand.

The music we hear and sing fills our hearts with joy and helps us to praise you. When we are without words to pray to you, we are grateful that we may refer to a favorite hymn or carol and use that as a prayer. May these songs live in our hearts and help to guide us on our journey with you. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #158 (vs. 1)

Her Baby, Newly Breathing

Her baby, newly breathing, with wailing needful cry,
by Mary kissed and cradled, is lulled in lullaby.
Long months of hope and waiting, the thrill and fear of birth,
are crowned with exultation, and God is on the earth.

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, Adam Geiger

When the Angels' Song Is Silent

*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 #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

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Emmanuel, God With Us, you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. We give you thanks with our offerings of time, talent, and treasure. We ask that you help us to use these gifts wisely where they are needed and, at the same time, spread the good news of your great love. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #151

The First Noel

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION (seated)

One: Let the Light of Christ in each one of us shine forth to everyone we meet.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: We shall let Christ Jesus' Light shine through us as we minister to all people.

One: May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas guide our lives throughout the year.

All: We shall walk in faith at all times and continue to sing our alleluias to God through Christ Jesus! Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (seated) Chalice Hymnal #143
Joy to the World

POSTLUDE *Fantasia on Joy to the World* 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

Angels We Have Heard on High

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. *Crown of Jesus*, 1862, alt.

MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; harm. Austin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956

Harm. ©1964, The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1326969

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856; desc. Paul Liljestrang

Desc. © 1976 Paragon Music Corp; all rights reserved; used by permission of Benson Music Group, Inc.

CCLI #1326969

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

WORDS: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907

MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

Arr. ©1989, The United Methodist Publishing House

CCLI #1326969

*All who are able, please stand.

Her Baby, Newly Breathing

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1987

MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983

Words © 1989, music © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1326969

The First Noel

WORDS: Traditional English carol (17th century)

MUSIC: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926

Desc. Used by permission of Oxford University Press

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