

ORDER OF WORSHIP

JANUARY 4, 2026

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



CELEBRATING EPIPHANY (TUESDAY, JAN. 6, 2026)

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**(Our church welcomes to Communion all people of all ages
who desire to follow 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

**[†]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** Jeremiah 31:7-8, 10, 12-14

One: For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,

All: **"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."**
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

One: Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

All: **They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.**

One: Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

All: **I will ... shower my people with my gifts, declares the Lord.
Let us worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #172

We Three Kings

*All who are able, please stand.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of Graciousness, you chose us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless, yet we do not love all our brothers and sisters without exception as Jesus taught. We are of you, Loving God, your creation, yet we take our status for granted and sometimes fail to obey Christ Jesus when he calls us to follow. At times, we do not study your Word and do not have the wisdom and insight of how you want us to live in the world. Going forward into this new year, we ask that you help us set our hope on Christ Jesus so that we may live into your Righteousness and spread your Word through Christ Jesus' glory. Amen.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Let us love one another; for love is of God.

All: **When we love one another, God abides in us.**

One: God was made manifest to us when God sent Jesus, the Christ into the world.

All: **When we love one another, God abides in us.**

One: God loves us infinitely and unconditionally; God sent Jesus to be the payment for our sins.

All: **When we love one another, God abides in us. God's love transforms us and makes us whole. In God's love, our sins are forgiven. Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

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.

*All who are able, please stand.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

(Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.)

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

LP Pew Bible NT p #2

Matthew 2:1-12

MESSAGE

"Road Trip!"

Pastor Joanne

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #146 (vs. 1)

From Heaven Above

From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!

Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.

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.

*All who are able, please stand.

RESPONSE

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

Sentence

Offertory

The First Noel

Adam Geiger, Becky Hinckley, Julie LaRocca, Matt Ramos

judgmental love. As Christ Jesus' disciples, we are the ones who step forth out of the safe water of Baptism to bring hope, to share a word of love and reconciliation, and to carry healing into the brokenness of the lives of those around us. We give thanks that you are within us and surround us with your universal power and love. Amen.

(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Anthem *A Call to Christmas*

Adam Geiger, Becky Hinckley, Julie LaRocca, Jessica Duga,
Matt Ramos

The Invitation to the Table

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 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.

*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: Loving God, a new year has dawned and we dedicate ourselves to you. We prepared for this dedication during the Advent season, will keep learning about you during the seasons leading up to Lent, and will further examine our faith when we come to the Lenten season. Our renewal and transformation by our holy meal gives us the responsibility to honor all people by way of your example of caring, non-

*All who are able, please stand.

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**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: We give you thanks, Loving God, that you have come to us through Christ Jesus, in the midst of time and in the midst of history in the city of Bethlehem. We also give thanks for the timeless presence of Christ Jesus' Spirit as we received the gifts of bread and wine together in community. We are now ready to go into the world refreshed, transformed, and renewed as your disciples.

Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #167
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

BENEDICTION adapted from Chalice Hymnal #167

One: Let us go and shout it from the mountaintops and everywhere that Jesus, our Savior, Light, Teacher, and Example is born.

All: We will spread the Light of Christ Jesus far and wide and continue to proclaim the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas and Christmastide. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca



*All who are able, please stand.

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From Heaven Above

WORDS: Martin Luther, 1535; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978, alt.

MUSIC: Valentin Schumann's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

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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

The Message Bible

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