

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 11, 2026

10:00 a.m.

**Welcome to Worship** at the Ellington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're 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



### BAPTISM OF JESUS FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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 Hymn #176: *Sing of God Made Manifest*

One: We have gathered over the past weeks to celebrate Jesus' birth.

All: **We give thanks for Jesus – God made manifest.**

One: We have heard the story of Mary and Joseph, shepherds and angels, and the three kings.

All: **We rejoice in this beautiful story of God's unconditional love for us.**

One: Today we celebrate Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his ministry here on earth.

All: **We are blessed to be Christ Jesus' disciples. We worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

### \*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #261 (2x)

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving and Eternal God, wherever we look we see signs of your presence. You have assured us of your saving graciousness through Christ Jesus. In our prayer of confession today we ask that, instead of anger and dislike toward others, you help us to proclaim your goodwill for all people. With your breath of life within us, please help us to continue to pray for our enemies. As we pray for peace, help us to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy and let us not take those freedoms for granted. We ask that you help us in our discipleship to understand that you gave us the gift of Christ Jesus to set everyone free. We give you thanks. Amen.

\*All who are able, please stand.

\*All who are able, please stand.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: John the Baptist said in Luke 3:16: "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Christ Jesus, who knows the intents of our hearts cleanses us of all sin. If we allow it, the unquenchable fire of the Holy Spirit and the unconditional love of God will keep us successful in our discipleship as we spread the love of God through Christ Jesus. Know without a doubt that we are washed clean and our sins 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**

*Come to the Water*

Senior Choir

### THE RENEWING OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

**HYMN** Sing to the tune of: *Come, Ye Thankful People*,  
*Come* found on page 718 in the Chalice Hymnal.  
*Sing of God Made Manifest*

**'Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest,**

**to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them,  
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:  
myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.**

**<sup>2</sup>Sing of God made manifest when at Jordan John confessed,**

**"I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do."**

**Then from heaven a double sign – dove-like Spirit, voice divine –**

**hailed the true anointed One: "This is my beloved Son."**

**<sup>3</sup>Sing of God made manifest when Christ came as wedding guest**

**and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;  
further still was love revealed as he taught, forgave,  
and healed,**

**bringing light and life to all who would listen to God's call.**

**<sup>4</sup>Sing of God made manifest on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,**

**where the Law and Prophets waned so that Christ alone remained:**

**glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face**

**toward the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.**

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## LITURGY OF REDEDICATION FOR RENEWING BAPTISMAL VOWS

**Pastor:** Sisters and Brothers in Christ, God's Spirit has been poured out upon the waters of the earth through the Sacrament of Baptism. We are blessed to receive the water of baptism whether this water is sprinkled on us, poured over us, or we are immersed in a body of water. This is water that flows freely for all who will receive it – water from the streams of God's graciousness, water that brings hope to all who thirst for justice and peace, water that refreshes life, water that nurtures growth and offers new beginnings.

**All:** **Today we come to the water of Baptism to renew in each other's presence our commitments to the Spirit who has birthed us, Jesus Christ who raised us up, and our Divine Parent who declares us "Beloved!" We ask that you bless this water for our use today.**

**Pastor:** We, as Christ Jesus' disciples, 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 any brokenness in the lives of those around us.

**All:** **Eternal God, you cast Light into the darkness, cast sin and doubt away, and call us your Beloved Ones. As Jesus knelt in the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed him as your child, pointing to him and his teaching as the way to your new life for all creation.**

**Pastor:** Touched by the waters of life, fed at the feast of hope and peace, and embraced in the warmth of God's love and promises – hear God's Good News: our sins are forgiven.

**All:** **Blessed and taught by Jesus about Righteousness, God's "Recipe for Life," called to service in the name of God, and filled with the peace of the Spirit, we are God's people. Thanks be to God!**

## INVITATION TO REMEMBER AND RENEW OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

*(Children will now be dismissed for Church School.)*

## NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #3

**Matthew 3:13-17**

## MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

**"United, Identified, and Empowered"**

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

Chalice Hymnal #373

***Be in Our Midst, O Christ***

Be in our midst, O Christ, for blessing  
your sons and daughters loved by you.  
They come, your glorious name confessing,  
seeking fresh lives washed clean and new.

## 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.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

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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

### 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:** God of Eternal Salvation, you have given us the gift of Christ Jesus, our Savior, Teacher, Example, and Friend. Your Holy Spirit abides with us as counselor

\*All who are able, please stand.

and guide. The waters of baptism are a sign of your unconditional love, graciousness, and covenant with us. We dedicate our offerings of time, talent, and treasure as symbols of our faithfulness to you. We pray this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### \*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Chalice Hymnal #357

*We Call Ourselves Disciples*

### BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #357

One: As pilgrims on our life journey, let us go forth from here to serve God through Christ Jesus.

All: **Renewed with the water of baptism, we join with all disciples to live God's Word, to share a cup of water and bread with all in need, and to work for justice and peace. Amen.**

## EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

### POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

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



### COPYRIGHTS

*Sing of God Made Manifest*

**WORDS:** Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

**MUSIC:** Jacob Hintze, 1678; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (18<sup>th</sup> century)

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***Be in Our Midst, O Christ***

**WORDS:** Colbert S. Cartwright, 1993

**MUSIC:** Carlton R. Young, 1984

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***We Call Ourselves Disciples***

**WORDS:** Jim Miller, 1984

**MUSIC:** Henry T. Smart, 1836

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***Sweet, Sweet Spirit***

**WORDS and MUSIC:** Doris Akers, 1962

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<b>Maggie Kutscher</b>	<b>Substitute Office Administrator</b>
<b>Cheyenne West</b>	<b>Little Sparks Nursery Attendant</b>
<b>Betsy Cottle</b>	<b>Volunteer Church Clerk</b>
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