

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 18, 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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WEEKEND

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

PRELUDE

Julie LaRocca

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #339

One: We gather in this beautiful sanctuary to praise God and Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God.

All: **O Lamb of God we come to you with open hearts and minds.**

One: We come "just as we are" amid life's troubles, sorrows, and joys.

All: **O Lamb of God, we come to you for guidance and fulfillment.**

One: We come to you, loving God, knowing that with you, nothing is impossible.

All: **O Lamb of God, we come to you.**

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: Eternal God, you love us steadfastly, but we have trouble loving in return; you call to us but at times we have clogged ears; you reveal yourself, but our eyelids are heavy; you lead us toward our neighbor, but we build walls around ourselves; you ask us to challenge evil, injustice, and alienation, but we get used to it and accept it by thinking it does not pertain to us. We pray that you help us to see ourselves both as we are and as we might be when we follow your "Right Way for Living." We ask that you draw us into your forgiving, renewing, and gracious love. Amen.

*All who are able, please stand.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Ephesians 2:4-6 tells us: "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" Through Christ Jesus, live in the assurance that we are forgiven and that we are joined together as a community in God's household. 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**

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Dr. M. L. K., Jr.

Words for the Occasion

Hymn Chalice Hymnal #630 (vv. 1, 3, 6)
We Shall Overcome

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Senior Choir
Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman
(*Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee Carman.*)

*All who are able, please stand.

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #92
John 1:29-42

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

"Invited into Participation"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #95 (vs. 2)

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

To Christ shall endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning Sacrifice.

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

*All who are able, please stand.

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**

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 Steadfast Love, we are thankful that you give to each one of us a measure of your great kindness and compassion. We are also thankful that you help each one of us in this faith community to find “new songs” as we help others to find “new songs of praise” for you through Christ Jesus. We ask that you accept what we offer as gifts of love from this faith community. When we serve others, please make it welcome in your sight. Christ Jesus’ gift of self has made us one body; we ask that you let everything we do reflect that we are striving to be unified in Christ Jesus. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #95 (vv. 1, 3, 4, 5)

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*All who are able, please stand.

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

adapted from Chalice Hymnal #95

One: Let us all go from here with praises and songs in our hearts.

All: We shall remember God's endless blessings and love in all that we do. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

[†]Please feel free to change wording referring to God to whatever language supports your faith.



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Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793; desc. Erik Routley, alt.
Desc. © 1985 Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
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We Shall Overcome

WORDS: African-American spiritual

MUSIC: African-American spiritual; adapt. William Farley Smith, 1986
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
CCLI #1326969

Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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