

## 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.

### **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.  
CCLI #1326969

***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

\*All who are able, please stand.

**Ellington Congregational Church, UCC**

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<b>Lee Carman</b>	<b>Director of Faith Formation</b>
<b>Caroline Takach</b>	<b>Office Administrator</b>
<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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