

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**FEBRUARY 22, 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 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 IN LENT**

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

### **T.E.L.O.S. LASAGNA DINNER AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE**

*(Teens Experience Living Out The Story)*

*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 Psalm 34:1-6, 8

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**All: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

One: O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.

**All: I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**

One: Look to him and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.

**All: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.**

**It is a blessing to worship God with thanksgiving and joy!**

### **\*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #180

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Loving God, we know you take care of our needs and give blessings without end. At times though, we are not satisfied with what we have and desire more and more. We lose our patience and blame our troubles on others. This causes us to withhold from our neighbors the acceptance and care you have shown to us through Christ Jesus' example. We ask for your forgiveness when we stray from your path of Righteousness. In Christ Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

**Pastor:** The Apostle Paul taught that we should live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ Jesus. We should stand firm unified in one spirit and strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. As we focus our minds on the goodness of God, we do have the assurance that in Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #180 (vs. 4)

***Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days***

**Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope  
and pain,  
an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!**

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

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM** Senior Choir  
***How Deep the Father’s Love for Us***

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** Irene Mosher  
*(Children will be dismissed with their teachers for Church School.)*

**NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON**

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #3  
**Matthew 4:1-11**

**MESSAGE** Pastor Joanne  
**“Our Need for God”**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #565 (vs.1)

***If You Will Trust in God to Guide You***

If you will trust in God to guide you,  
and hope in God through all your ways,  
God will give strength, what-e’er betide you,  
and bear you through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God’s unchanging love  
builds on the rock that will not move.

**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

**Presentation of Offerings**

*The Shopping Cart is used during the offering to collect  
your gifts of food for Ellington and Tri-Town residents in*

\*All who are able, please stand.

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 #195 (vs. 4)

***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***  
**Were the whole realm of nature mine,**  
**that were a present far too small;**  
**love so amazing, so divine**  
**demands my soul, my life, my all.**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All: Loving and Eternal God, we come with great devotion to you through Christ Jesus. The offerings we give are in response to your graciousness. Please accept them as part of our ongoing commitment to Christ Jesus and guide us as we use them in mission for the world. Amen.**

### **GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #91

***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!***

**UNISON BENEDICTION**

**All: We have heard your voice, Loving God, and have felt your love as well as the love of one another. We give you thanks that we have been blessed to serve in mission in your name. We shall continue to pray to you through Christ Jesus and learn from you during this season of Lent. Amen.**

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**POSTLUDE**

Julie LaRocca

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



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**Ellington Congregational Church, UCC**

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<b>Juliane LaRocca</b>	<b>Director of Music</b>
<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 (volunteer)</b>	<b>Church Clerk</b>
<b>Lisa Sirag (volunteer)</b>	<b>Historian</b>

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