

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 15, 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



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*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 #586**

One: We have come together, Loving God, to worship in this sacred space.

All: We ask that you open our eyes to your guidance and love through Christ Jesus.

One: Please open our ears to the beautiful sounds of your making that surround us.

All: We are prepared to listen for your advice on how to live according to your Righteousness.

One: Help us to open our hearts and minds to God's Word and then share that Good News with others in our lives.

All: With eyes, ears, mouths, and hearts, we will see, listen for, and not only internalize but share God's Good News in the world.

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

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #586

Open My Eyes, That I May See

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Loving God, our Rock and our Redeemer, you are the source of our deliverance. Your name remains upon our lips. Too many times we worship idols of our own making; when temptation overtakes us we sometimes submit to its charm. We find it easier to grumble at hardships than to praise you for your kindness and the blessings we receive day to day. Too often we test you in every way. Forgive us when we take advantage of your loving nature. We ask that

*All who are able, please stand.

you restore us to communion with you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Brothers and Sisters, remember that in 1 Corinthians 10:13, the apostle Paul tells us that "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, God will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." Christ Jesus is the foundation of our salvation; therein lies the assurance that our sins 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 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

Be Still

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

*(Children will be dismissed with Lee and teachers for
Church School.)*

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #102

John 9:1-12, 35-41

*All who are able, please stand.

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

"The Light of the World"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #546 (vs. 1)

Amazing Grace!

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

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

*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 #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 God, we ask that you accept our offerings of praise and thanksgiving as well as these tangible gifts of food and treasure. They are symbols of our response to your call to repentance and our earnest desire to become more faithful steward-servants in your name. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #595
Be Thou My Vision

UNISON BLESSING adapted from CH #595

All: We will keep God, through Christ Jesus with us day and night whether awake or asleep. God, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit will be our guiding light. 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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Be Thou My Vision

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963
Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House
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The Message Bible

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*All who are able, please stand.

Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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