

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 5, 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 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



EASTER SUNDAY

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Our church welcomes to Communion all people of all ages who desire to follow Christ Jesus and grow in faith.)

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

PRELUDE

Senior Bell Choir

***Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!
That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright***

*All who are able, please stand.

WELCOME

INTROIT

Senior Choir

Now Let the Vault of Heaven Resound

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ has risen.

All: Christ has risen indeed.

One: God is alive ...

All: New birth is given.

One: Hope is alive ...

All: A new age is dawning.

One: Joy is alive ...

All: Redemption is here.

One: Love is alive ...

All: Death cannot harm us.

One: We are alive ...

All: New life is within us.

One: The church is alive ...

All: God's spirit is within us.

God of life, we worship you.

God of creation, we praise you.

God of revelation, we learn from you.

**God of resurrection, we are here to celebrate
you.**

*THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*OPENING HYMN

Chalice Hymnal #216

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

*All who are able, please stand.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS ON EASTER DAY

Pastor: God never abandons us! In the resurrection we are not only promised eternal life with God, but also the assurance that we can have an intimate relationship with God every day of our lives. Just as springtime blossoms forth, we are also promised new life in Christ Jesus. Because of God’s graciousness, we may have the gift of renewal and transformation every moment of our lives. A wonderful blessing indeed. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Chalice Hymnal #224

Christ Arose! (refrain)

**Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o’er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM

Senior Choir

Jesus Is Alive! Alleluia!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Lee Carman

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #114

John 20:1-18

*All who are able, please stand.

MESSAGE

Pastor Joanne

**“No One Yet Understood from the Scripture that Jesus
Had to Rise from the Dead”**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE Chalice Hymnal #215 (vs. 3)

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Now the brightest season dawns with the day of splendor,
now the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

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.**

OFFERING

Sentence

Offertory ***The Trumpet Shall Sound*** Matt Ramos

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,*

*All who are able, please stand.

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 #218

Thine Is the Glory (refrain)

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Eternal God of Salvation, we come to you with abounding joy, constantly transformed by your love. Through Christ Jesus you have broken the bonds of oppression and removed any imagined barriers to your unending love. All our lives long we shall call your name blessed and give you thanks and glory for the gift of life and all it contains. Amen.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #398

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

The Invitation to the Table

One: Easter people, come now to the Communion Table with Christ Jesus.

All: He is risen! He lives and presides at this feast!

One: Come, let us eat together the bread of life!

All: Nothing separates us from God's love!

*All who are able, please stand.

One: Come, let us drink together from the cup of gladness!

All: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Words of Institution and The Communion Prayer

One: We remember the Last Meal Jesus ate with the disciples. While they were at table, he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it for them to share. Jesus said, "Remember me."

All: We will eat the bread in remembrance of Jesus, who lives and dwells among us.

One: In the same manner, Jesus gave thanks for the fruit of the vine and said, "This is the New Covenant in my blood. Remember me."

All: We will give thanks for the Cup in remembrance of Jesus who lives and dwells among us.

One: Together around the Communion Table, we pray:

All: Holy Spirit, we ask that you come and bless this bread and this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be opened and we will recognize the Spirit of God through Christ Jesus rising in our midst; indeed, also in one another. Holy Spirit, thank you for coming to us. Amen.

The Distribution and Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Gratitude

All: God of Abundance, with this Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation you have united us with Christ Jesus, making us one with all your people. We give you

*All who are able, please stand.

thanks that you send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ Jesus, our teacher, example, friend, and savior. Amen.

GOING OUT WITH WORD AND PRAISE

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #226
He Lives!

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

One: Let us burst forth from any cocoons that entrap us.

All: We will fly free as the butterfly.

One: In that freedom, let us go in peace, go in joy, and go in love. Christ has risen!

All: Christ has risen indeed!

POSTLUDE Julie LaRocca
Toccata from Symphony No. 5, Op. 42
Widor

Musicians:

Ben Bolduc, trumpet

Dr. Charles Wasserman, cello

Dave Robert, violin



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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; desc. Charles H. Webb

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He Lives!

WORDS AND MUSIC: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933

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Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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