

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

APRIL 26, 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 OF EASTER (EASTERTIDE) OPEN AND AFFIRMING EDUCATIONAL EVENT IN THE SOCIAL ROOM**

*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**

Chalice Hymnal #80 & #81

One: O Lord, we come this morning knee-bowed and  
body-bent before your throne of grace.

**All: My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is  
your name.**

One: O Lord – this morning – bow our hearts beneath our  
knees, and our knees in some lonesome valley.

**All: In pastures fresh you made me feed, beside the  
living stream.**

One: We come this morning like empty pitchers to a full  
fountain, with few merits of our own.

**All: You bring my wand’ring spirit back, when I forsake  
your ways.**

One: O Lord, open up a window of heaven, and lean out  
far over the battlements of glory, and listen this  
morning.

**All: You lead me, for your mercy’s sake, in paths of  
truth and grace.**

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

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

**\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #80

***My Shepherd, You Supply My Need***

(Psalm 23)

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: Eternal God, our Rock and Redeemer, we give you  
thanks for hearing our confession. We realize we  
worship idols of our own making; when temptation  
overtakes us, we submit to its charm. We find it easier  
to grumble at hardships than to praise you for**

\*All who are able, please stand.

blessings and generosity we receive day by day. We test you in every way, yet you promise you will not test us beyond our endurance. Forgive us when we take advantage of your loving nature and restore us to communion with you. We pray this in Christ Jesus' name. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**Pastor:** Let us hear these words of assurance from Philippians 2:6, 8: Even though Jesus was in the form of God, he "did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited." Rather "he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on the cross." Jesus died for us so that we might have life everlasting and approach God cleansed of our sins. In Jesus, the Christ, we are forgiven, indeed! 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

*Shepherd, Savior, Lord*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Lee Carman

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

\*All who are able, please stand.

### NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p #103

**John 10:1-10**

**MESSAGE**

Irene Mosher

**"The voice – the gate"**

**PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE** Chalice Hymnal #558 (vs. 1)

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

(John 10:11-15)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;  
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.

### 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**

\*All who are able, please stand.

**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 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 #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: Loving God, in whom we put our trust, please accept our offerings of praise and thanksgiving mingled with these tangible gifts that we have given. They are symbols of our response to your call through Christ Jesus for "love of neighbor." We ask that you help us to use these gifts wisely in faithful stewardship. Amen.**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #93

***Praise Him! Praise Him!***

\*All who are able, please stand.

**UNISON BENEDICTION**

**All: Loving God, through Christ Jesus, we are your flock and you are our shepherd. Your love fills us and guides us. We will go from here to spread the Good News of your love and to continue your work in the world. Amen.**

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

**POSTLUDE**

Julie LaRocca

***Toccata from Symphony No. 5, Op. 42***

Widor

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



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***Knee-bowed and Body-bent***

James Weldon Johnson, 20<sup>th</sup> century African-American educator  
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CCLI #1326969

***The Message Bible***

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**Ellington Congregational Church, UCC**

*Location & Shipping Address: 72 Main Street*

*Mailing Address: P.O. Box 216 ~ Ellington, Connecticut  
06029*

<b>The Rev. Joanne Myer</b>	<b>Intentional Interim Minister</b> <b>860 872 9222</b>
<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>

Phone: 860-871-6606

Fax: 860-871-5932

E-mail: **[OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org](mailto:OfficeAdmin@eccucc.org)**

Website: **[www.eccucc.org](http://www.eccucc.org)**

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