

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 12, 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



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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**

One: We gather in the presence of God;

All: We have come to worship and praise God’s name.

One: We gather in joy and expectancy;

All: We have come to encounter God in beauty and wonder.

One: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening;

All: Speak your word of life to us, O God.

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #323

Wonderful Words of Life

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Creator God,

in you we live and move and have our being:

You have been with us through good times and difficult ones.

You give us strength to face the challenges around us.

**You offer us rest for our bodies and souls
when life seems too demanding.**

**We turn to you for wisdom this day,
trusting we will find the peace and comfort we long for
in your presence.**

**We praise you for all you offer us in your great
faithfulness.**

**Fill us with your Spirit in this time of worship.
Open our minds and hearts,**

*All who are able, please stand.

so that we may see as you see,
love as you love,
and follow your ways for the sake of Christ our Lord.
Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good.

***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**

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Julie LaRocca

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman
The Box

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #14
Matthew 13:24-30, 34-43

*All who are able, please stand.

MESSAGE

Pastor Craig

"God Starts Small"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

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

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!*

*All who are able, please stand.

***DOXOLOGY**

Chalice Hymnal #46

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.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Gift-giving God, we are so grateful for all that we enjoy in the world around us, and in the assurance that you love us all. Bless the gifts we offer today, that they may express your love for the world itself and to all who need to know you care, through Christ Jesus, your greatest gift.

(Children will rejoin the congregation at this time.)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Hymn

Chalice Hymnal #387

Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken

The Invitation

God has called us to closer communion with Jesus, who invites us to this table. Jesus invites us to this meal to receive nourishment, strength and renewal as we serve God in the world. Come to this table and meet Christ again.

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of the Bread and Cup

*All who are able, please stand.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Our God, we thank you for your life giving presence at this meal, and for the new life you have given to us. Help us to be your hands and feet in the world as we go from this place bringing your peace and new life to a suffering world. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #431

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

BENEDICTION (seated)

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Julie LaRocca

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Go, My Children, with My Blessing

WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. Ralph Baughan Williams.

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The Message Bible

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Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV

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Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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Maggie Kutscher	Substitute Office Administrator
Cheyenne West	Little Sparks Nursery Attendant
Donna Heidelmark	Assistant Nursery Attendant
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