

ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 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 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



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHRISTMAS IN JULY

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

PRELUDE

Jonathan Budd

Christmas Medley

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God who dwells in the mystery of life

All: Fill us with wonder as we traipse around your world.

One: Christ who offers kindness and mercy

All: Fill us with understanding as we meet our stranger, enemy, and friend.

One: Spirit who delivers dreams to us

All: Draw us into your visions of love for our neighbors.

***THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #155

Angels We Have Heard On High

INVOCATION

All: God of Illumination,

Most days, we shuffle along, filled with focus on the ordinary. Instead of seeing your Divine Light in each space, we overlook the beauty of your presence. Open our souls to notice the amazement of your steadfast presence. May we see the holy beauty of each flower’s petal, each cloudy sunset, each rumble of thunder, and each weed in our lawns. For birth is happening in the springtime buds, the summer sunsets, the autumn hues, and the winter snowfall. May we see the joy of birth surrounding us throughout our year. May this joy move us to bear kindness, creating your Realm here on earth. Amen.

*All who are able, please stand.

***GLORIA PATRI** Chalice Hymnal #153 (vs.4)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of
old,

when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

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

ENGAGING THE WORD

ANTHEM Lenora Williams

O Holy Night

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Irene Mosher

The Box

NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON

Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #56
Luke 1:26-38

MESSAGE Pastor Craig

"It's a Surprise"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

*All who are able, please stand.

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 Jonathan Budd

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

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 #162 (vs. 3)

What Child Is This

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, rich, and poor, to own him,
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;**

*All who are able, please stand.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: Our God, your generosity is beyond words. You give us gifts in many forms--each other, our homes, families, and nourishment. We thank you for all that we have from you. As we bring these gifts before you help us to be mindful of all your gifts--Christmas gifts and all others--and give in the way you give to us. Amen



GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #143
Joy to the World

BENEDICTION (seated)

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

POSTLUDE Jonathan Budd
Meditation on 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain'



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Angels We Have Heard On High

WORDS: Traditional French carol; tr. Crown of Jesus, 1862, alt

MUSIC: French carol melody; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937;

harm. Audtin C. Lovelace, 1964, alt.; desc. Richard E. Gerig, 1956

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

CCLI #1326969

*All who are able, please stand.

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