

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**September 27, 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



## **EIGHTEENTH 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 come to worship because we love God.

**All: All creation praises God's goodness and love.**

One: We come to worship seeking healing and wholeness.

**All: Through God's son, compassion, love, and grace flow in abundance.**

One: We come to worship, yearning to be transformed:

**All: Guided by the Spirit of God, we work to build a more peaceful and just world.**

**Let us worship God together!**

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

#### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Chalice Hymnal #53

***Morning Has Broken***

### **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All: All-embracing God,**

**In recalling all that you are and all that you have done,**

**we recall then who we are and what we have done or failed to do.**

**We confess that we have**

**failed to comfort those in pain,**

**ignored the needs of others**

**failed to stand with our neighbors in their struggle for dignity and respect.**

**We repent of our past sins and pray for**

**the wisdom to walk in a new way with you**

**and with one another. Amen.**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. By God's grace we have been saved, and this is not our own doing; it is a gift of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*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** Senior Choir

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Lee Carman

Children will be dismissed to accompany Lee

**NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL LESSON**

Large Print Pew Bible NT p. #23

**Matthew 21:23-32**

**MESSAGE** Pastor Craig

**"By What Authority?"**

\*All who are able, please stand.

## **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.**

### **RESPONSE**

#### **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: Generous God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer so that they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail and diversity. Amen.**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Chalice Hymnal #556

***Trust and Obey***

**THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Julie LaRocca

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***Morning Has Broken***

**WORDS:** Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

**MUSIC:** Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

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**Donna Heidelberg**

**Irene Mosher**

**Betsy Cottle**

**Lisa Sirag**

**Bridge Minister**

**Director of Music**

**Director of Faith Formation**

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**Volunteer Lay Minister**

**Volunteer Church Clerk**

**Volunteer Church Historian**

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