ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 22, 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 our 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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THANKSGIVING/HANGING OF THE GREENS

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

PRELUDE Julie LaRocca

O Christmas Tree

WELCOME

*All who are able, please stand.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are blessed to celebrate the coming of the Advent season and the Holy Child by "Hanging the Greens."

All: "Greening" the church reminds us of the eternal life God offers.

One: The Christmas wreaths on the front doors of the church welcome all our members, friends, and neighbors.

All: God's "Circle of Love" includes everyone.

One: The candles that shine forth from the windows tell all who see them that Jesus is indeed the "Light of the World."

All: Ellington Congregational Church will continue to be a "Beacon of Light and Hope" for generations to come.

One: This morning, from the youngest to the oldest, we will decorate this beautiful sacred space, sing, and praise the Lord with our worship!

All: Let us worship God with thanksgiving and joy!

***LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

***OPENING HYMN** Chalice Hymnal #718

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Most Holy God, you are known to us as the Almighty, Eternal Ruler and Everlasting. We call you our Shepherd and Guide. We praise you with many names, but you are beyond our imagination, so much greater than our words. God most merciful, we confess that we have failed to love fully or forgive wholly. You offer us freedom, but we settle

*All who are able, please stand.

for the familiar. You offer us hope but we prefer knowing what will happen next. Teach us to give up cautious faithfulness, so that we can offer you our whole lives, and commit to following Jesus into the future you are creating, even as we await his rebirth.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS
Pastor: Hear the Good News. God's compassion never fails. God's loving kindness is steadfast. Know that you are forgiven by the grace of Jesus Christ. Forgive each other, and live in peace and harmony. Amen.

***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**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lee Carman



ENGAGING THE WORD
HANGING OF THE GREENS

ANTHEM Chime Choir

Away in a Manger

*All who are able, please stand.

HOLLY AND IVY

Jeremiah 23:5-6

5 "For the time is coming," says the LORD, "when I will raise
up a righteous descendant from King David's line.
He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is
just and right throughout the land.
6 And this will be his name: 'The LORD Is Our Righteousness.'
On that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in
safety."

ANTHEM Senior Choir

The Holly and the Ivy

POINSETTIA

Numbers 24:15-17a

15This is the final message Balaam delivered: "This is the
message of Balaam son of Beor, the message of the man
whose eyes see clearly, 16the message of one who hears the
words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who
sees a vision from the Almighty, who bows down with eyes
wide open: 17
I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in
the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will
emerge from Israel.

Shape of the Flower: represents the Star of Bethlehem that the Wise Men followed to find the child, Jesus.
Red Leaves: symbolize the blood shed by Jesus at the time of Crucifixion.
White Leaves: symbolize the purity of Christ Jesus.

HYMN Chalice Hymnal 172 v. 1 & 5

We Three Kings

*All who are able, please stand.

WINDOW SWAGS, WREATHS, RIBBONS
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will
shine. 6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The
government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince
of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

Window Candles: to welcome the weary traveler to a safe place; to welcome Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus.

Circle Shape of the Wreath: signifies the Eternal Presence of God and the Oneness of God's Universe.

HYMN Chalice Hymnal 144 v. 1 & 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LIGHTING OF THE SANCTUARY
Psalm 89:1-4
1 I will sing of the LORD's unfailing love forever! Young and old
will hear of your faithfulness. 2 Your unfailing love will last
forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.
3 The LORD said, "I have made a covenant with David, my
chosen servant. I have sworn this oath to him: 4 'I will
establish your descendants as kings forever; they will sit on
your throne from now until eternity.'"

HYMN Chalice Hymnal #148

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*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.

OFFERING: ***Affirmation By Touch for Our Offerings to God***

Sentence
Offertory — Senior Choir
Thanks to Thee

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!

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***DOXOLOGY** Chalice Hymnal #46

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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. Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All: God of Light and Hope, we offer ourselves to you in response to Christ Jesus' call. Out of the abundance of your love, we offer gifts to you. Please accept these offerings as tributes to your glory as we dedicate ourselves anew to Christ's service. We know you will help us to use these gifts wisely as we spread Light and Hope to the community and the world. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

***HYMN OF DEDICATION** Chalice Hymnal #153

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION*

(adapted from Chalice Hymnal #715)

One: We have been renewed and refreshed with beautiful decorations, Scripture readings, and words for the coming season.

All: We thank God, through Christ Jesus for the wonderful things God has done for us and for the world. We join the world in rejoicing!

One: God, Mother and Father of us all, will continue to bless us as we seek to do God's mission work in the world.

*All who are able, please stand.

All: We give praise and thanks to God who binds us in unity and faith to one another. Since the universe began, God was our God then, is our God now, and will be our God forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE Julie LaRocca

You are welcome to depart during the postlude in a spirit of gratitude. Let the music accompany you as you go forth into the world!



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*All who are able, please stand.

Ellington Congregational Church, UCC

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WELCOME STATEMENT

We, the members of Ellington Congregational Church, proclaim our belief that every person is created in God's image and deserving of God's love and grace. We covenant with God and each other to affirm the dignity and worth of every individual. Alike and yet different, each person brings unique gifts and talents to our community of faith.

Jesus taught us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."
(Luke 10:27)

In this spirit, we seek to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for every person who wishes to know God, acknowledging that we have not always lived up to this calling, and that some come to us carrying those wounds. We welcome every individual into the full life and ministry of this congregation, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, culture, faith background, education, economic circumstance, family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or differing physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities.

As an Open and Affirming church, we recognize that becoming truly inclusive is a continuous journey that calls us to reflect, learn, and grow together. With the strength of God's guidance, we will embody this covenant with open minds and compassionate hearts, as we each strive to build a just and loving world.

*All who are able, please stand.