

## GATHERING IN GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Sharing Our Lives in Prayer

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Welcome

Letting God In

*During this time, we invite you to prepare your heart and your mind for worship. We want you to be able to use this quiet time to settle your thoughts, set aside any distractions that may be troubling you, and focus your whole self on God. Open your heart, your mind, and your spirit, and let God into your life.*

**Centering Prayer: God, make your promise dawn in me again.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "God, make your promise."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Dawn in me again."*

\* **Opening Praise** (from Psalm 132):

One: Come, people of God!

**Many: Now is the time to worship.**

One: Let's enter God's dwelling place;

**Many: Let's worship at the feet of God.**

One: Come, people of God!

**Many: Now is the time to praise and pray.**

One: Let's enter God's dwelling place;

**Many: Let's lay ourselves down at the cross of Christ.**

One: Come, people of God!

**ALL: We come to worship the Holy One.**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* **Joining in Prayer** (based on Spill the Beans resource, iss. 24, © 2017):

**Lord God, you invite us out of darkness into the light of your love. We confess today that sometimes we prefer the shadows to the light. We prefer what we know. We resist the less familiar. But still you call us and promise us something different, something better, something unknown and unexpected. God, forgive our lack of faith that keeps us from wholeheartedly following you. Forgive our lack of vision that keeps us from imagining what you lay before us. Forgive our lack of hope that keeps us from expecting greatness. Forgive us, Lord, and open us up to possibility. Open us up to trusting and to daring to believe that still, you have the power. Still, in the face of all that speaks otherwise, you have the power to make all things new. And God, as you awaken that trust in us, awaken too a boldness to join you in your holy, grace-filled work.**

*(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray.

**Amen.**

\* God's Promise of Grace

\* The Peace of Christ

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

\* Song of Peace: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

(reprinted with permission, © Jan-Lee Music, copyright-protected alternate lyrics)

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, we are family.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer to Open Minds and Hearts

Scripture reading – Isaiah 9:1-7 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy. They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice. <sup>4</sup> As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor. <sup>5</sup> Because every boot of the thundering warriors, and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

Sermon: "The Promise to Come" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #82 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Coming Together in Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer: **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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #401 – Here in This Place (Gather Us In)  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
Now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
Called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;  
Here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
Call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;  
Give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
Not in some heaven, lightyears away;  
Here in this place the new light is shining;  
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
Gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together,  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Gratitude and Blessing

*Our offering plates are located at the entrance to the sanctuary. This offering allows us to continue our outreach and mission both here in the community of Oronoco and beyond – in the greater Rochester area, in Minnesota, and even around the world. We are grateful for your willingness to join us in this mission and thank you for your generosity.*

Announcements

### **BEING SENT OUT IN GOD'S WORD**

\* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

\* indicates please rise in body or spirit as you feel led