

## 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: **Come to us again, God of hope and peace.***

*As you breathe in, pray, "Come to us again."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "God of hope and peace."*

\* Opening Praise:

One: Our souls proclaim the greatness of God.

**Many: And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.**

One: We will praise God as long as we live.

**Many: We will sing praises to God our whole lives long.**

One: We will not trust in the powers of this world.

**Many: Instead, we place our trust in the Creator of heaven and earth,**

One: The One who gives food to the hungry,

**Many: The One who enacts justice for the oppressed.**

One: Our souls proclaim the greatness of God

**Many: As we worship God in this place.**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer (adapted from prayers by Joanna Harader and MinistryMatters):

**Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light. We have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom. Hear our prayer, O Lord. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)***

In the spirit of your hope and love, we pray.

**Amen.**

\* God's Promise of Grace

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

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**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 – Micah 5:2-4; 6:6-8 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>5:2</sup> As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are the least significant of Judah's forces, one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you. His origin is from remote times, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, he will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell secure, because he will surely become great throughout the earth; <sup>6:6</sup> With what should I approach the LORD and bow down before God on high? Should I come before him with entirely burned offerings, with year-old calves? <sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with many torrents of oil? Should I give my oldest child for my crime; the fruit of my body for the sin of my spirit? <sup>8</sup> He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Sermon: "Making, Doing ... Hoping ... Preparing" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Exploring the Word Together

*This is a time for us to process our faith and our hearing of God's word together – a time to be the word of God for one another. It's also a time to build community with one another – a time to share elements of our faith and our understanding of that faith with each other. Feel free to participate in conversation with those around you or sit and ponder this question on your own.*

## How can we prepare for Christ today?

One: May the words of my mouth,

**Many: And the meditations of all of our hearts**

**ALL: Be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.**

Hymn #79 – Light Dawns on a Weary World

(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Light dawns on a weary world

When eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world:

The promised day of justice comes.

The trees shall clap their hands;

The dry lands, gush with springs;

The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy,

And be led forth in peace,

As all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

Love grows in a weary world

When hungry hearts find bread

And children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world:

The promised feast of plenty comes.

The trees shall clap their hands;

The dry lands, gush with springs;  
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
And be led forth in peace,  
As all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

Hope blooms in a weary world  
When creatures, once forlorn,  
Find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
The promised green of Eden comes.  
The trees shall clap their hands;  
The dry lands, gush with springs;  
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
And be led forth in peace,  
As all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

### 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 #91 – Come, Come Emmanuel (sing through five times, last two as a round)  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

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