

## 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: **Lord, embolden my heart to do for others.***

*As you breathe in, pray, "Lord, embolden my heart."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "To do for others."*

\* Opening Praise (from Psalm 9):

One: The Lord is a safe place for the oppressed –

**Many: A safe place in difficult times.**

One: The Lord is a safe place for the downtrodden –

**Many: A safe place in helpless times.**

One: The Lord is a safe place for the heartbroken –

**Many: A safe place in sorrowful times.**

One: Those who know the name of the Lord trust God

**Many: Because God has not abandoned any who seek.**

One: God has not abandoned any who yearn.

**Many: God has not abandoned any who aspire.**

One: God brings us back from brokenness and ache.

**Many: God brings us back from hopeless and fear.**

One: God brings us back from failure and lostness,

**ALL: So we declare God's praise and rejoice in God's salvation.**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer:

**God, sometimes the path before us is easy and comfortable, familiar and flooded with light. And in those times, we walk with you freely and gladly, letting you guide our feet with ease and wholehearted trust. But sometimes, God, you call us to hard things ... to scary things ... to places and tasks and people that challenge us. And we admit that that is a much more demanding path to walk with you. It makes us uncomfortable. It makes us uneasy. It makes us hesitant to follow and trust. Remind us in those moments, God, that you are still beside us as we walk those more demanding paths. Give us courage to bear your light, your hope, and your love into even the most difficult places ... in the most difficult times ... to the most difficult people. Embolden our spirits with your Spirit once more. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)**

Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

**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 – Exodus 1:15-21 (from the *Common English Bible*)

<sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt spoke to two Hebrew midwives named Shiphrah and Puah: <sup>16</sup> "When you are helping the Hebrew women give birth and you see the baby being born, if it's a boy, kill him. But if it's a girl, you can let her live." <sup>17</sup> Now the two midwives respected God so they didn't obey the Egyptian king's order. Instead, they let the baby boys live. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called the two midwives and said to them, "Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?" <sup>19</sup> The two midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because Hebrew women aren't like Egyptian women. They're much stronger and give birth before any midwives can get to them." <sup>20</sup> So God treated the midwives well, and the people kept on multiplying and became very strong. <sup>21</sup> And because the midwives respected God, God gave them households of their own.

Sermon: "Shiphrah & Puah: Women of Life-Giving Subversion" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #816 – If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

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

If thou but trust in God to guide thee,  
With hopeful heart through all thy ways,  
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,  
To bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love  
Builds on the rock that nought can move.

Only be still, and wait God's leisure  
In cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure  
And all discerning love hath sent.  
No doubt our inmost wants are clear  
To One who holds us always dear.

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways,  
But do thine own part faithfully.  
Trust the rich promises of grace;  
So shall they be fulfilled in thee.  
God never yet forsook at need  
The soul secured by trust indeed.

### **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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #834 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Precious Lord, take my hand;  
Lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light;  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
Lead me home.

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.*

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

\* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

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