

GATHERING IN GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Sharing Our Lives in Prayer

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Accompanist – Raquel Nisbit

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: **Quench my parched places, Water of Life.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Quench my parched places."

As you breathe out, pray, "Water of Life."

* Opening Praise (based on *2017 Abingdon Worship Annual*, © 2016):

One: Listen, all who are thirsty!

Many: Christ offers us living water.

One: Listen, all who feel too tired to carry on.

Many: Christ offers us living water.

One: Listen, all who need the healing and renewal of God's Spirit.

Many: Christ offers us living water.

One: Spring up, eternal life.

Many: Well up within us and wash away our fears.

One: Spring up, eternal hope.

Many: Well up within us and quench our deepest need.

One: Spring up, eternal grace.

Many: Well up within us and renew our spirits again.

ALL: Come, loving Christ! Come, Living Water! Come, Holy Spirit!

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 25, © 2017):

Holy Living Water, today as we gather, we are amazed that you thirsted just as we thirst. You needed companions, just as we need companions. Help us not to be amazed at these simple things: water and words. For water and words are what brought holiness to life. Living Water. Word of Life. Jesus: the carpenter, the Messiah, our Savior and Lord. We are awed by Water and Word, and yet, even in the throes of our awe, we know that we need to seek forgiveness and wholeness. Forgive us when we are careless with our words. Forgive us when we squander the water. Forgive us when we forget that it was through God's unending love that the Word joined us and the Water brought us life. Living Word, Living Water, we bring ourselves to you with gratitude, humility, and hope. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

Through Jesus the Christ – Living Water, Living Word – we pray.

Amen.

* God's Promise of Grace

* 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 – John 4:1-42 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was making more disciples and baptizing more than John (² although Jesus' disciples were baptizing, not Jesus himself). ³ Therefore, he left Judea and went back to Galilee. ⁴ Jesus had to go through Samaria. ⁵ He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food. ⁹ The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.) ¹⁰ Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!" ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here." ¹⁷ The woman replied, "I don't have a husband." "You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. ¹⁸ "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth." ¹⁹ The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You and your people worship what you don't know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. ²⁴ God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I Am—the one who speaks with you." ²⁷ Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus. ³¹ In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³² Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." ³³ The disciples asked each other, "Has someone brought him food?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶ Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷ This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸ I have sent you to harvest what you didn't work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work." ³⁹ Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word, ⁴² and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world."

Sermon: "Living Water: Geyser of Grace" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn – Once a Woman Seeking Water (insert)

(© 2012, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

Once a woman seeking water at a well not far from home
Met a thirsty, waiting stranger from a people not her own.
Would she give a drink of water and respond to human need?
Could she know the joy and wonder she, the giver, would receive?

She drew water for the thirsty; Jesus offered something more:
Living water, God's own mercy, love abundant, freely poured.
One, a blessing for the body; one, a blessing for the soul!
Both are gifts of our Creator — gifts that help to make us whole.

Still God's people carry water from their wells and mountain streams;
Still at rivers women gather, sharing labor, sharing dreams.
Still a cup of water given in a dry and weary place
Is a blessing overflowing from the fountain of God's grace.

God, we ask your richest favor on the work we seek to do;
May we gladly share clean water and your living water, too.
May we see the face of Jesus, and how far your love extends,
In the ones we call our partners — no more strangers, now our friends.

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 #479 – Ho, All Who Thirst (Come Now to the Water)

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

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And all whose souls are parched
And weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And from your heart will flow
A never-failing spring!

Why forsake the Lord,
The fount of living water,
Choosing broken cups
That cannot be filled?

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And all whose souls are parched
And weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And from your heart will flow
A never-failing spring!

For the Lamb will be
Our shepherd and will guide us

To the wellspring of
The water of life.

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And all whose souls are parched
And weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And from your heart will flow
A never-failing spring!

All who come may take
This gift of living water.
They will thirst no more,
For they shall be filled.

Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And all whose souls are parched
And weary, come and drink!
Ho, all who thirst, come now to the water,
And from your heart will flow
A never-failing spring!

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*