

## 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: Breathe life into my dry places, Living God.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "Breathe life into my dry places."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Living God."*

\* Opening Praise (from Psalm 103):

One: Let my whole being bless the Lord!

**Many: Let everything inside me bless the Lord!**

One: Let everything strong inside me bless the Lord.

**Many: Let everything tender inside me bless the Lord.**

One: Let everything broken inside me bless the Lord.

**Many: Let everything uncertain inside me bless the Lord.**

One: Let everything flourishing inside me bless the Lord.

**Many: Let everything fragile inside me bless the Lord.**

**ALL: Let my whole being bless the Lord!**

Lighting the First Advent Candle – FAITH

Advent Hymn #92 – While We Are Waiting, Come (verse 1)

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

While we are waiting, come;

While we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

While we are waiting, come.

\* Invitation to Confession

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

**God, we wait with you in the stillness. We wait, grateful for the chance to be quiet. We wait for the breath of your Spirit to breathe life into the weariness of our bones. God, we thank you that you show your presence in the stirring of our hearts, in the awareness of the air that you move around us as you breathe life into your people in worship today. Lord, reach down into our weariness and transform it into a longing for you so that we may be stirred up, renewed in faith, and returned to the world you call us to serve with the breath you breathe into your people today.** *(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"

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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 – Ezekiel 37:1-14 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD's power overcame me, and while I was in the LORD's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?" I said, "LORD God, only you know." <sup>4</sup> He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the LORD's word!" <sup>5</sup> The LORD God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. <sup>6</sup> I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. <sup>8</sup> When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, human one! Say to the breath, The LORD God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company. <sup>11</sup> He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.'" <sup>12</sup> So now, prophesy and say to them, The LORD God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. <sup>13</sup> You will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the LORD. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the LORD says."

Sermon: "Salvation Comes in the Breath" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #286 – Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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

Breathe on me, breath of God;

Fill me with life anew,

That I may love what thou dost love,

And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,

Until my heart is pure,

Until with thee I will one will,

To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,

Till I am wholly thine,

Until this earthly part of me

Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with thee the perfect life  
Of thine eternity.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Coming Together in Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

*Our tradition in this congregation is to partake of the bread whenever you feel prepared to do so and to hold the wine/juice until all have been served so that we can all partake together. This gives us the chance to participate in this holy mystery as we participate in our faith – both as individuals and as a community.*

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer for the Feast

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.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #104 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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

O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
A lamp within my breast,  
To do in spirit lowly,  
All that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation;  
Love brought you down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
That led you to embrace  
In love, all loves excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness,  
In mercy and goodwill,  
To bring an end to sadness  
And bid our fears be still.

In patient expectation  
We live for that great day  
When your renewed creation  
Your glory shall display.

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*