

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: Love with justice, God. And justice with love.

As you breathe in, pray, "Love with justice, God."

As you breathe out, pray, "And justice with love."

* **Opening Praise** (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 13, © 2014):

One: We have the power to transform through love.

Many: In this place, God invites us to transform.

One: We have the power to work for peace.

Many: In this place, God invites us to seek peace.

One: We have the power to lift up through sharing.

Many: In this place, God invites us to lift each other up.

One: Our God is a God of love and justice.

Many: Our God is a God of peace and equity.

One: Come, gather round!

Many: Hear what God has to say to us this day.

One: Come, gather round!

Many: Let us worship our God.

* Invitation to Confession

* **Joining in Prayer** (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 13, © 2014):

Loving God, we are blessed by your unending love for us. We are amazed by your generosity to us. We are humbled by your wisdom and mercy when you deal with us. Loving God, you give us so much – a life to enjoy and discover more of you, loved ones to care for us and guide us, a home to protect us and keep us safe. Forgive us when we take these gifts for granted, for the times we forget to be grateful for them, or the times when we misuse or abuse them. Help us to be grateful for all that we have, and to share our gifts with everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from. May we be wise and compassionate in all of our daily living, so that your kingdom is come, here and now. (*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"

(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 – 1 Kings 3:4-28 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

⁴ The king went to the great shrine at Gibeon in order to sacrifice there. He used to offer a thousand entirely burned offerings on that altar. ⁵ The Lord appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you." ⁶ Solomon responded, "You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You've kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne. ⁷ And now, Lord my God, you have made me, your servant, king in my father David's place. But I'm young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing. ⁸ But I'm here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can't be numbered or counted due to its vast size. ⁹ Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help." ¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had made this request. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies—asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment— ¹² I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward. ¹³ I now also give you what you didn't ask for: wealth and fame. There won't be a king like you as long as you live. ¹⁴ And if you walk in my ways and obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did, then I will give you a very long life." ¹⁵ Solomon awoke and realized it was a dream. He went to Jerusalem and stood before the chest containing the Lord's covenant. Then he offered entirely burned offerings and well-being sacrifices, and held a celebration for all his servants. ¹⁶ Sometime later, two prostitutes came and stood before the king. ¹⁷ One of them said, "Please, Your Majesty, listen: This woman and I have been living in the same house. I gave birth while she was there. ¹⁸ This woman gave birth three days after I did. We stayed together. Apart from the two of us, there was no one else in the house. ¹⁹ This woman's son died one night when she rolled over him. ²⁰ She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I was asleep. She laid him on her chest and laid her dead son on mine. ²¹ When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, he was dead! But when I looked more closely in the daylight, it turned out that it wasn't my son—not the baby I had birthed." ²² The other woman said, "No! My son is alive! Your son is the dead one." But the first woman objected, "No! Your son is dead! My son is alive!" In this way they argued back and forth in front of the king. ²³ The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead.' The other one says, 'No! Your son is dead and my son is alive.'" ²⁴ Get me a sword!" They brought a sword to the king. ²⁵ Then the king said, "Cut the living child in two! Give half to one woman and half to the other woman." ²⁶ Then the woman whose son was still alive said to the king, "Please, Your Majesty, give her the living child; please don't kill him," for she had great love for her son. But the other woman said, "If I can't have him, neither will you. Cut the child in half." ²⁷ Then the king answered, "Give the first woman the living newborn. Don't kill him. She is his mother." ²⁸ All Israel heard about the judgment that the king made. Their respect for the king grew because they saw that God's wisdom was in him so he could execute justice.

Sermon: "The Tangle of Power, Justice, and Love" – 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.

Where do we see love in justice or justice in love?

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 #766 – The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

The church of Christ cannot be bound
By walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found,
There can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door
And step into the street.
True service will seek out the poor
And ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by
When justice is denied.
True mercy hears the homeless cry
And welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share
To meet our neighbor's need,
Then we extend the Spirit's care
Through every selfless deed.

The church of Christ cannot be bound
By walls of wood or stone.
Where charity and love are found,
There can the church be known.

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 #100 – My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears
Every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

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