

## 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: Reveal your supreme goodness, Creator God.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "Reveal your supreme goodness."*

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

\* Opening Praise (from Psalm 19, Genesis 1):

One: Heaven is declaring God's glory!

**Many: The sky proclaims God's handiwork!**

**ALL: And God said, "It was good!"**

One: The sun is declaring God's glory!

**Many: The moon is proclaiming God's handiwork!**

**ALL: And God said, "It was good!"**

One: Trees and flowers, crops and even weeds declare God's glory!

**Many: Birds and fish, animals and even bugs proclaim God's handiwork!**

**ALL: And God said, "It was good!"**

One: And we – we declare God's glory!

**Many: We, the created, proclaim God's handiwork!**

**ALL And God said, "It was supremely good!"**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer (from *Spill the Beans*, iss. 24, © 2017 Spill the Beans Resource Team:

**Creator God, creativity begins with you, you who are revealed in time and space. Star maker, your word has the power to create, in whispers and shouts the universe continues to take shape. Architect, you drew the lines and arches, you measured the dimensions needed, to make a world that could sustain life. Artist, your flair for original designs painted a canvas filled with color, depth and diversity. Incarnate one, you put flesh and blood onto bones and marrow, you breathed life into humanity. When you stopped to pause you were delighted with it all, you were content and filled with love for every beautiful, created thing. Compassionate one, you gave us senses to enjoy it all, too. You wanted us to look after it, to share in your joy of it. Forgive us creator, for failing to enjoy all that you have made, for failing to look after it and nurture it as we should. Help us, O God, to turn from our mistakes, to respond to the needs of our fragile world, its climate and its lifeforms. Help us to be co-creators with you, working for the good of the universe, for the benefit of all life in our world.** *(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"

(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 – Genesis 1:1-2:4 (from the *Common English Bible*)

<sup>1</sup> When God began to create the heavens and the earth— <sup>2</sup> the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea, and God's wind swept over the waters— <sup>3</sup> God said, "Let there be light." And so light appeared. <sup>4</sup> God saw how good the light was. God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God named the light Day and the darkness Night. There was evening and there was morning: the first day. <sup>6</sup> God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other." <sup>7</sup> God made the dome and separated the waters under the dome from the waters above the dome. And it happened in that way. <sup>8</sup> God named the dome Sky. There was evening and there was morning: the second day. <sup>9</sup> God said, "Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear." And that's what happened. <sup>10</sup> God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. <sup>11</sup> God said, "Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth." And that's what happened. <sup>12</sup> The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. <sup>13</sup> There was evening and there was morning: the third day. <sup>14</sup> God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. <sup>15</sup> They will be lights in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth." And that's what happened. <sup>16</sup> God made the stars and two great lights: the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. <sup>17</sup> God put them in the dome of the sky to shine on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. <sup>19</sup> There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day. <sup>20</sup> God said, "Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky." <sup>21</sup> God created the great sea animals and all the tiny living things that swarm in the waters, each according to its kind, and all the winged birds, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. <sup>22</sup> Then God blessed them: "Be fertile and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth." <sup>23</sup> There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day. <sup>24</sup> God said, "Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife." And that's what happened. <sup>25</sup> God made every kind of wildlife, every kind of livestock, and every kind of creature that crawls on the ground. God saw how good it was. <sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image to resemble us so that they may take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and all the crawling things on earth." <sup>27</sup> God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and master it. Take charge of the fish of the sea, the birds in the sky, and everything crawling on the ground." <sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I now give to you all the plants on the earth that yield seeds and all the trees whose fruit produces its seeds within it. These will be your food. <sup>30</sup> To all wildlife, to all the birds in the sky, and to everything crawling on the ground—to everything that breathes—I give all the green grasses for food." And that's what happened. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day. <sup>1</sup> The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God completed all the work that he had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all the work of creation. <sup>4</sup> This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Sermon: "It Was Supremely Good" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #664 – Morning Has Broken

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

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness  
Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation;  
Praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

#### 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 #370 – This Is My Father's World

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

This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings  
And round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees,  
Of skies and seas,  
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.  
O, let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong  
Seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world.  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died  
Shall be satisfied,  
And earth and heaven be one.

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*