

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: **You know me as I am, Fully-Loving God.***

As you breathe in, pray, "You know me as I am."

As you breathe out, pray, "Fully-Loving God."

* Opening Praise (from Psalm 84):

One: We put our strength in the Lord our God.

Many: In God, we are truly blessed.

One: Pilgrimage is in our hearts,

Many: And so we come to worship.

One: We come from many places and communities.

Many: We come from many families and circumstances.

One: We come from many hopes and dreams.

Many: We come from many disappointments and doubts.

One: But still we come, because pilgrimage is in our hearts,

Many: So we come to worship and praise.

One: We put our strength in the Lord our God.

ALL: In God, we are truly blessed.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer:

All around us, God, the rumors and the false narratives are flying. We hear stories about our friends and neighbors. We hear stories about our families and co-workers. And we give credence to these stories by listening to them – by taking them in and giving them space in our minds and our hearts. Whether they are true or not ... whether we believe them or not, God, we give them space to be, and in giving them space, we give them the power to fracture spirits and lives, reputations and honest intentions. Forgive us when we get swept up in the rumor mill. Help us to remember to seek out the source of a story before we believe it, before we add weight to it by passing it on with our own lips. Help us to find ways to recognize and honor people's true stories in the midst of sensationalism and judgment. Help us to see all those around us through your eyes – eyes of forgiveness, eyes of grace, eyes of unconditional love. (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 readings (from the *Common English Bible*)

Luke 8:1-3 – ¹ Soon afterward, Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom. The Twelve were with him, ² along with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses. Among them were Mary Magdalene (from whom seven demons had been thrown out), ³ Joanna (the wife of Herod's servant Chuza), Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

John 20:11-18 – ¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

Sermon: "Mary Magdalene: Woman of Misrepresented Devotion" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #237 – I Come to the Garden Alone

(from *The New Century Hymnal*, © 1995 The Pilgrim Press)

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that he gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,

None other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with him,
Though the night around me be falling;
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #442 – Just as I Am, without One Plea
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

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*