

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: We live in your promise, God of creation.

As you breathe in, pray, "We live in your promise."

As you breathe out, pray, "God of creation."

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

One: The sound of water,

Many: The sound of life.

One: We come this morning to the Giver of life.

Many: We come in worship and praise.

One: We come ready to hear it again – that old, sacred story.

Many: We come ready to notice it afresh – that old, sacred story.

One: Gather round safe from the storm

Many: As we come to God –

ALL: The One who has promised us never again.

* Invitation to Confession

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

God of the whole universe, you who can cast a whole light show with the sun and the moon and the stars, you who command streams and rivers and oceans, you who formed mountains and valleys and populated the earth with all manner of living things, meet us here in this place. You meet with us, we who are concerned with the minutiae of life, who are so consumed with our small corner of the world that we fail to see the vastness of creation and the magnificence of our creator. We confess that we are distracted by muddy puddles when you would have us contemplate still waters. We worry about midges and miss the display of buzzards overhead. We complain about the stairs outside our homes when you invite us to scale mountains. Scope and perspective we often misconstrue. God, give us insight to love and honor your creation: the weird and the wonderful, the different and diverse, the magical and magnificent, the outstanding and the ordinary. Remind us of our place in creation as beloved children of the God of the Universe. We are loved, freed, forgiven, and called to be stewards of the earth. (*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

* 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 6:5-22; 9:8-17 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

⁵ The Lord saw that humanity had become thoroughly evil on the earth and that every idea their minds thought up was always completely evil. ⁶ The Lord regretted making human beings on the earth, and he was heartbroken. ⁷ So the Lord said, "I will wipe off of the land the human race that I've created: from human beings to livestock to the crawling things to the birds in the skies, because I regret I ever made them." ⁸ But as for Noah, the Lord approved of him. ⁹ These are Noah's descendants. In his generation, Noah was a moral and exemplary man; he walked with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ In God's sight, the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹² God saw that the earth was corrupt, because all creatures behaved corruptly on the earth. ¹³ God said to Noah, "The end has come for all creatures, since they have filled the earth with violence. I am now about to destroy them along with the earth, ¹⁴ so make a wooden ark. Make the ark with nesting places and cover it inside and out with tar. ¹⁵ This is how you should make it: four hundred fifty feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark and complete it one foot from the top. Put a door in its side. In the hold below, make the second and third decks. ¹⁷ "I am now bringing the floodwaters over the earth to destroy everything under the sky that breathes. Everything on earth is about to take its last breath. ¹⁸ But I will set up my covenant with you. You will go into the ark together with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives. ¹⁹ From all living things—from all creatures—you are to bring a pair, male and female, into the ark with you to keep them alive. ²⁰ From each kind of bird, from each kind of livestock, and from each kind of everything that crawls on the ground—a pair from each will go in with you to stay alive. ²¹ Take some from every kind of food and stow it as food for you and for the animals." ²² Noah did everything exactly as God commanded him. ... ^{9:8} God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, ¹⁰ and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. ¹¹ I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. ¹³ I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. ¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures." ¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth."

Sermon: "Spectrum of a Promise" – 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.

How have you witnessed God's promises in your life?

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 – De Colores (insert)

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

Sing of colors,
Sing of colors that over the hills
In profusion are springing;
Sing of colors
Of the birds that fly outside my window
Their canticles singing;
Sing of colors,
In the rainbow's bright colors
God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth
And give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth
And give thanks to the God who created us all.

Sing, rejoicing!
Every creature that breathes
Raise a song to the God of creation.
Sing, rejoicing!
Sing to God who so earnestly cares,
Who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news!
Sing the love of the Savior
Reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
Many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

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 #715 – The Earth Belong to God Alone

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

The earth belongs to God alone;
Hard clay, rich soil, fine sand.
Give thanks wherever food is grown
On borrowed holy land.

The fertile ground through years of toil
Has cried for Sabbath rest –
A time of peace for worn-out soil
So land can be refreshed.

All life belongs to God alone,
In wilderness and fields.
From fallow land, or plowed and sown,
God gives the good it yields.

Till God endows the earth once more
With Eden's state of grace,
May we endeavor to restore
All land as sacred space.

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*