

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: Call me. Embolden me. And send me out, God.

As you breathe in, pray, "Call me. Embolden me."

As you breathe out, pray, "And send me out, God."

* Opening Praise (from Psalm 26):

One: God's faithful love is right in front of us –

Many: And we worship with trust.

One: God's overwhelming grace is right in front of us –

Many: And we worship with hope.

One: God's never-ending peace is right in front of us –

Many: And we worship with gratitude.

One: God's steadfast strength is right in front of us –

Many: And we worship with praise and prayer.

One: God's sacred call is right in front of us –

ALL: And we worship with all that we are.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 24, © 2017 Spill the Beans Resource Team):

God, you remember your people in every place and time, even when we fail to remember you. You meet us here. You meet us and welcome us – the people you call your children. Remind us in this time and place, God, that here in your presence, we are on holy ground. And now that we are here, God, help us to focus on you. Help us to tear ourselves away from all that distracts us so that we can focus on you. And as we see you, may we see the love in your eyes: that look that says, "I know you. I love you. I forgive you." Called back to our roots in you – called back to your presence, to this holy ground – may we worship and adore you here, now, and always. (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 – Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

²³ A long time passed, and the Egyptian king died. The Israelites were still groaning because of their hard work. They cried out, and their cry to be rescued from the hard work rose up to God. ²⁴ God heard their cry of grief, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁵ God looked at the Israelites, and God understood. ^{3:1} Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. ² The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. ³ Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up. ⁴ When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Moses said, "I'm here." ⁵ Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." ⁶ He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. ⁸ I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. ⁹ Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. ¹⁰ So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain." ¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me. ... ^{4:10} But Moses said to the LORD, "My Lord, I've never been able to speak well, not yesterday, not the day before, and certainly not now since you've been talking to your servant. I have a slow mouth and a thick tongue." ¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who gives people the ability to speak? Who's responsible for making them unable to speak or hard of hearing, sighted or blind? Isn't it I, the LORD? ¹² Now go! I'll help you speak, and I'll teach you what you should say." ¹³ But Moses said, "Please, my Lord, just send someone else." ¹⁴ Then the LORD got angry at Moses and said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak very well. He's on his way out to meet you now, and he's looking forward to seeing you. ¹⁵ Speak to him and tell him what he's supposed to say. I'll help both of you speak, and I'll teach both of you what to do. ¹⁶ Aaron will speak for you to the people. He'll be a spokesperson for you, and you will be like God for him. ¹⁷ Take this shepherd's rod with you too so that you can do the signs."

Sermon: "A Reluctant Messenger" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #288 – Spirit of the Living God (sing through 3 times)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me,
Fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

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

Affirmation of Faith (*see insert*)

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 #498 – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Loaves were broken, words were spoken

By the Galilean shore.

Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven,

Was their food forevermore.

By your body broken for us,

By your wine of life outpoured,

Jesus, feed again your people.

Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves were broken, words were spoken

In a quiet room one night.

In the bread and wine you gave them,

Christ, you came as Light from Light.

By your body broken for us,

By your wine of life outpoured,

Jesus, feed again your people.

Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Loaves are broken, words are spoken,

As in faith we gather here.

Jesus speaks across the ages:

“I am with you; do not fear!”

By your body broken for us,
By your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

By the loaves you break and give us,
Send us in your name to share
Bread for which the millions hunger,
Words that tell your love and care.

By your body broken for us,
By your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

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*