

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: **Teach me genuine faith, Holy One.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Teach me genuine faith."

As you breathe out, pray, "Holy One."

* Opening Praise:

One: We are worshiping in the love of God

Many: And walking in the light of God.

One: We are serving in the spirit of God

Many: And praying in the heart of God.

One: We are singing in the praise of God

Many: And searching for the mind of God.

One: We are hoping in the wholeness of God

Many: And daring in the grace of God.

One: We are walking in the light of God

Many: And the light of God never dims.

ALL: Forever and ever. Amen.

Sacred Space for Sacred Story

Throughout Lent this year, we're focusing on Story: on God's story, our own stories, and the ways God's story lifts up and inspires our own. Each week, we're going to spend some time holding sacred space for each next question and phase of putting that story together. It's time you can spend thinking, praying, and writing on your testimony so far or on what may come next. You're also invited to share (if you so choose) what has developed with your story so far.

Palm Sunday: God Breaks In

Sacred Space: **How was God with you in that moment? What shed light on that intervention for you?**

Prayer

Hymn #455 – Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken

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

Listen to the word that God has spoken;

Listen to the One who is close at hand;

Listen to the voice that began creation;

Listen even if you don't understand.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 26, © 2018 Spill the Beans Resource Team):

We greet you, Lord, for it is you that we come to worship this day. You and you alone are the One for whom we have waited. Hosanna, Lord, hosanna! It is our privilege and pleasure to lay our lives before you and proclaim our faithfulness to the kin-dom you seek for the world. Though we try hard, we recognize

that we are not perfect and we make many mistakes – some small, some large. Sometimes we deny you. Sometimes we withhold love. Sometimes we reduce others to tears. Sometimes we cause hurt. Yet forgiveness is your promise to us. Though we remain undeserving, this day we thank you for the assurance of mercy which you extend to us. May we respond with a willingness to live faithfully in this world, working for the good of all. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

Amen.

* God's Promise of Grace

* Song of Peace: "Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace" (sing through 3 times) (insert)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, words altered)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Ho – ly One!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer to Open Minds and Hearts

Scripture reading – John 12:12-27 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the king of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ Don't be afraid, Daughter Zion. Look! Your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt. ¹⁶ His disciples didn't understand these things at first. After he was glorified, they remembered that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him. ¹⁷ The crowd who had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead were testifying about him. ¹⁸ That's why the crowd came to meet him, because they had heard about this miraculous sign that he had done. ¹⁹ Therefore, the Pharisees said to each other, "See! You've accomplished nothing! Look! The whole world is following him!" ²⁰ Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." ²² Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. ²⁴ I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me. ²⁷ "Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time.

Sermon: "Testimony is Sincere" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #833 – O Love That Wilt Not Let Me God
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that sleekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,

And feel the promise is not vain that mourn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

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 #197 – Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer; the Lord of heaven, our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice.

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*