

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 to your purpose, God-With-Us.

As you breathe in, pray, "Call me to your purpose."

As you breathe out, pray, "God-With-Us."

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

One: Step by step – no looking back.

Many: Eyes to the future – a life to be built or reformed.

One: Step by step – no looking back –

Many: God calls us to follow without prejudice and without fear.

One: Eyes to the future – a life to be built or reformed –

Many: God calls us to follow with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

One: God calls us to follow,

Many: When it is easy and when it is not.

One: God calls us to follow,

Many: When it is comfortable and when it is not.

One: God calls us to follow,

Many: When we understand and when we do not.

One: But whenever God calls us to follow,

Many: God is there with us.

* Invitation to Confession

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

God of all nations and kingdoms, God of all cultures and races, we praise you for your involvement with all of creation: with the high and the lowly, with the rich and the poor, with the powerful and the oppressed. None is beyond your reach, and none are without your compassionate embrace. So forgive our trial and judgment of others – the harshness with which we condemn, our lack of tolerance and patience, our failure to understand. You, who bless all nations and people without discrimination, whose will for all people is good. May we be content to walk the paths in which you lead us, to follow your way in faith, and, by your Spirit, to bring blessing wherever we go. God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, blessed be your name in all 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 12:1-9 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you.” ⁴ Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. ⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “I give this land to your descendants,” so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. ⁸ From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord’s name. ⁹ Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

Sermon: “God Calls ... and Keeps Calling” – 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.

Where do you feel God has called you 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 #739 – O for a Closer Walk with God

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

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
What e'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

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 #726 – Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

“Will you come and follow me
If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same?
Will you let my love me shown;
Will you let my name be known;
Will you let my life be grown in you
And you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
And you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see
If I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you
And you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide
If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you
And you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you

And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you
And you in me.

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*