

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: **Even in darkness, Christ, be my light.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Even in darkness."

As you breathe out, pray, "Christ, be my light."

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

One: At the beginning of a new day, who will we turn to?

Many: Who will show us the way? God who stays with us.

One: When the sun's going down, who will be turn to ?

Many: Who will show us the way? God who stays with us.

One: In times when we are struggling, who will we turn to?

Many: Who will show us the way? God who loves us.

One: When we're in conflict and confusion, who will we turn to?

Many: Who will show us the way? God who brings peace.

One: When everything feels out of our control, who will we turn to?

Many: Who will show us the way? God. Today, tomorrow, and always.

* Invitation to Confession

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

Mysterious unity, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are our One and our All. We gather here this day united in our love for you. We come from different places, with different ideas, different beliefs, different political views, but we are united in our love for you. Help us in this new day, as the world around us continues to clash and to be in conflict and to change. Help us remain united in our common faith and love. Help us accept our differences while maintaining our own integrity - to embrace those differences while still being gentle and kind with those who are hurting today. We are sorry for those times when we forget to be compassionate with people we disagree with. We are sorry for those times when we choose to speak or act in ways that are not loving. Forgive us, loving Creator. Remind us of the bond of unity that we share. Remind us of your call to love our neighbor, no matter who they are or what they believe. Give us grace to meet them where they are and offer our love and support in the midst of this new day. So be it.
(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 39:1-23 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ When Joseph had been taken down to Egypt, Potiphar, Pharaoh's chief officer, the commander of the royal guard and an Egyptian, purchased him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ² The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man and served in his Egyptian master's household. ³ His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made everything he did successful. ⁴ Potiphar thought highly of Joseph, and Joseph became his assistant; he appointed Joseph head of his household and put everything he had under Joseph's supervision. ⁵ From the time he appointed Joseph head of his household and of everything he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's household because of Joseph. The Lord blessed everything he had, both in the household and in the field. ⁶ So he handed over everything he had to Joseph and didn't pay attention to anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome. ⁷ Some time later, his master's wife became attracted to Joseph and said, "Sleep with me." ⁸ He refused and said to his master's wife, "With me here, my master doesn't pay attention to anything in his household; he's put everything he has under my supervision. ⁹ No one is greater than I am in this household, and he hasn't denied me anything except you, since you are his wife. How could I do this terrible thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰ Every single day she tried to convince him, but he wouldn't agree to sleep with her or even to be with her. ¹¹ One day when Joseph arrived at the house to do his work, none of the household's men were there. ¹² She grabbed his garment, saying, "Lie down with me." But he left his garment in her hands and ran outside. ¹³ When she realized that he had left his garment in her hands and run outside, ¹⁴ she summoned the men of her house and said to them, "Look, my husband brought us a Hebrew to ridicule us. He came to me to lie down with me, but I screamed. ¹⁵ When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his garment with me and ran outside." ¹⁶ She kept his garment with her until Joseph's master came home, ¹⁷ and she told him the same thing: "The Hebrew slave whom you brought to us, to ridicule me, came to me; ¹⁸ but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment with me and ran outside." ¹⁹ When Joseph's master heard the thing that his wife told him, "This is what your servant did to me," he was incensed. ²⁰ Joseph's master took him and threw him in jail, the place where the king's prisoners were held. While he was in jail, ²¹ the Lord was with Joseph and remained loyal to him. He caused the jail's commander to think highly of Joseph. ²² The jail's commander put all of the prisoners in the jail under Joseph's supervision, and he was the one who determined everything that happened there. ²³ The jail's commander paid no attention to anything under Joseph's supervision, because the Lord was with him and made everything he did successful.

Sermon: "Good Promises in Bad Times" – 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 do faith and fairness intersect? What happens to faith when things are unfair?

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 #834 – Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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

Precious Lord, take my hand;
Lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Holy my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

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 #773 – Heaven Shall Not Wait

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

Heaven shall not wait
For the poor to lose their patience,
The scorned to smile,
The despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted;
In him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait
For the rich to share their fortunes,
The proud to fall,
The elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege:
To kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait
For the dawn of great ideas,
Thoughts of compassion
Divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action;
His cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait
For triumphant Hallelujahs,
When earth has passed
And we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;
His power and love are for now and then forevermore.

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*