

## 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: **Bless my purpose, God. Bless my call.***

*As you breathe in, pray, "Bless my purpose, God."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Bless my call."*

\* Opening Praise (from Psalm 15):

One: Who can dwell in the Lord's house?

**Many: Who can inhabit God's holy mountain?**

One: The one who does what is right,

**Many: The one who speaks truth sincerely,**

One: The one who does no harm to their neighbor,

**Many: The one who keeps a promise even when it hurts.**

One: We come to dwell in the Lord's house.

**Many: We come to inhabit God's holy mountain.**

One: We come to be made righteous by God's grace.

**ALL: We come to worship God Most High.**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer:

**God, we live in a society that values public recognition and praise above all else – a society that seeks accolades over authenticity, a society that prizes publicity over purpose. The world around us likes to tell us that a thing isn't worth doing unless it will garner us notoriety and applause. The world around us likes to tell us that worth comes from the recognition of others. And too often, God, we have been caught up in the desperate and frantic race for this recognition. Forgive us for turning our eyes and our hearts to the praise of this world instead of to you. Remind us that our truest worth comes from you. Remind us that the praises of this world pale in comparison to the praise only you can give. And teach us once again that our greatest purpose is not to be recognized but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. (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"

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**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 – Romans 16:1-16 (from the *Common English Bible*)

<sup>1</sup> I'm introducing our sister Phoebe to you, who is a servant of the church in Cenchreae. <sup>2</sup> Welcome her in the Lord in a way that is worthy of God's people, and give her whatever she needs from you, because she herself has been a sponsor of many people, myself included. <sup>3</sup> Say hello to Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup> who risked their own necks for my life. I'm not the only one who thanks God for them, but all the churches of the Gentiles do the same. <sup>5</sup> Also say hello to the church that meets in their house. Say hello to Epaenetus, my dear friend, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. <sup>6</sup> Say hello to Mary, who has worked very hard for you. <sup>7</sup> Say hello to Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and my fellow prisoners. They are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. <sup>8</sup> Say hello to Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Say hello to Urbanus, our coworker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. <sup>10</sup> Say hello to Apelles, who is tried and true in Christ. Say hello to the members of the household of Aristobulus. <sup>11</sup> Say hello to my relative Herodion. Say hello to the members of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Say hello to Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who are workers for the Lord. Say hello to my dear friend Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Say hello to Rufus, who is an outstanding believer, along with his mother and mine. <sup>14</sup> Say hello to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who are with them. <sup>15</sup> Say hello to Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. <sup>16</sup> Say hello to each other with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ say hello to you.

Sermon: "Phoebe and the Women of Rome: Women of Hidden Holiness" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #707 – Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Take thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray;  
Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;  
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;  
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor thee.

Take thou our hearts, O Christ; they are thine own;  
Come thou within our souls and claim thy throne;  
Help us to shed abroad thy deathless love;  
Use us to make the earth like heaven above.

Take thou our wills, Most High! Hold thou full sway;  
Have in our inmost souls thy perfect way;  
Guard thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;  
Guide thou our ordered lives as thou dost please.

Take thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;  
Through our surrendered souls thy plans fulfill.  
We yield ourselves to thee: time, talents, all;  
We hear, and henceforth heed, thy sovereign call.

## 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

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 #761 – Called as Partners in Christ's Service  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Called as partners in Christ's service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
All God's people, young and old,  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other's burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
Words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow

Ways to order human life  
That surround each person's sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

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*