

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: Fulfill your covenant through me, Everlasting God.

As you breathe in, pray, "Fulfill your covenant through me."

As you breathe out, pray, "Everlasting God."

* Opening Praise (from Psalm 125):

One: We come to declare our trust in the Lord –

Many: Everlasting trust.

ALL: We will not be shaken!

One: We come to lift up our praise to the Lord –

Many: Overflowing praise.

ALL: We will not be shaken!

One: We come to entrust our brokenness to the Lord –

Many: Aching brokenness.

ALL: We will not be shaken!

One: We come to offer our prayers to the Lord –

Many: Countless prayers.

ALL: We will not be shaken!

Lighting the First Advent Candle – JOY

Advent Hymn #92 – While We Are Waiting, Come (verse 1)

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

While we are waiting, come;

While we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,

While we are waiting, come.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on Spill the Beans resource, iss. 25, © 2017):

Welcoming God, we gather here today to lift our hearts and mind in song, word, and silence, offering you our worship and our love. We come to seek the water of life and the food that satisfies. As we plan for and prepare the lavish feasts and treats of this holiday season, remind us to be sensible, to be wise, and not to be wasteful. Merciful God, we are sorry for times when we have refused to hear your words of welcome and chose instead to go our own way. Forgive us, Lord, and help us return to you, for you are always waiting to welcome us home with loving arms, full of mercy and joy. Help us, Lord, to heed your word, to listen to your voice, and to serve you to the best of our ability. 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"

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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 – Isaiah 55:1-13 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ All of you who are thirsty, come to the water! Whoever has no money, come, buy food and eat! Without money, at no cost, buy wine and milk! ² Why spend money for what isn't food, and your earnings for what doesn't satisfy? Listen carefully to me and eat what is good; enjoy the richest of feasts. ³ Listen and come to me; listen, and you will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful loyalty to David. ⁴ Look, I made him a witness to the peoples, a prince and commander of peoples. ⁵ Look, you will call a nation you don't know, a nation you don't know will run to you because of the LORD your God, the holy one of Israel, who has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the LORD when he can still be found; call him while he is yet near. ⁷ Let the wicked abandon their ways and the sinful their schemes. Let them return to the LORD so that he may have mercy on them, to our God, because he is generous with forgiveness. ⁸ My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans. ¹⁰ Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and don't return there without watering the earth, making it conceive and yield plants and providing seed to the sower and food to the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that comes from my mouth; it does not return to me empty. Instead, it does what I want, and accomplishes what I intend. ¹² Yes, you will go out with celebration, and you will be brought back in peace. Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you; all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ In place of the thorn the cypress will grow; in place of the nettle the myrtle will grow. This will attest to the LORD's stature, an enduring reminder that won't be removed.

Sermon: "Salvation Comes in Abundance" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #88 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 2, 6, and 7)

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show;

And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.**

* Gathering Hymn #95 – Prepare the Way of the Lord (sing through 3 times)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see
The salvation of our God.

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*