

## GATHERING IN GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Rocky Nisbit, accompanist

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: Speak to me, God. Speak through me, God.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "Speak to me, God."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Speak through me, God."*

Glimpses of God

*With the authentic stories of our lives and our days, we call each other into this time of worship together by sharing the glimpses of God that have captured our attention throughout the last week or two. If you have a way that you've noticed God – God's work, God's love, God's leading, God's presence – we invite you to come up and share it. Your story doesn't have to be eloquent. It doesn't have to be long. Your experience of God is yours to share in whatever way is most comfortable for you. We hold space for your story, and we listen with our ears and our hearts.*

One: And the Word became flesh and made his home among us,

**ALL: And still, we find God's glory everywhere, full of grace and truth.**

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer (based on the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press):

**O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil, apathy, and hate. You call us to be reconciled to you and to one another, but we are content to live in separation, antagonism, and distrust. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression, divisiveness, and prejudice. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others, to ourselves, and to you. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)***

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

**Amen.**

\* God's Promise of Grace

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\* 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 – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>1</sup> From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy. To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to all of you. <sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. <sup>4</sup> Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. <sup>5</sup> We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. <sup>7</sup> As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place. The news about your faithfulness to God has spread so that we don't even need to mention it. <sup>9</sup> People tell us about what sort of welcome we had from you and how you turned to God from idols. As a result, you are serving the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and you are waiting for his Son from heaven. His Son is Jesus, who is the one he raised from the dead and who is the one who will rescue us from the coming wrath.

Sermon: "Let the Message of Your Life RING OUT" – 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.*

## **What's one thing you can change that let's God's good news ring out through your life?**

Hymn #692 – Spirit, Open My Heart  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

Spirit, open my heart  
To the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
In receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart  
With a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
To your grace I now surrender.  
Spirit, open my heart  
To the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
In receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart  
As my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
May my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart  
To the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
In receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep;  
Share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
May we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart  
To the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
In receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

### 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 #697 – Take My Life

(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee,  
Swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee,  
Filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose,  
Every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne,  
It shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee,  
Ever, only, all for thee.

#### 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

#### \* Blessing

#### \* Claiming Our Faith Identity

*This is a chance for us to remind one another of both who we are and whose we are before we head back out in the world. The hope is that, as we grow more and more familiar with the words and the claim and call that they place on our hearts, we'll be able to recall them throughout the week in those moments when we need to tap into our faith. The words and phrases are also aimed at helping us connect with our congregation's own mission statement: "We are a community of believers whose mission is to share God's Word, show God's Love, serve God's World, and strive for God's Peace."*

One: We are the Church –

**ALL: God's beloved children today, tomorrow, and always.**

One: Here, in this worship, through prayer, word, and fellowship,

**ALL: God has embraced us yet again, and our spirits have been made new.**

One: Suffused with God's grace,

**ALL: We claim new strength, new purpose, and new hope in our call.**

One: With spirits reaffirmed and renewed,

**ALL: We are called to SHARE God's Word. We are called to SHOW God's Love. We are called to SERVE God's World. We are called to STRIVE for God's Peace.**

One: We are the Church

**ALL: Because God binds us together in sacred companionship and blessed connectedness.**

One: And now, as the Church, God calls us out

**ALL: To do and be God's extravagant love in the world.**

One: This service has ended.

**ALL: Now our service can begin.**

#### Postlude

*\* indicates please rise in body or spirit as you feel led*