

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: **Work your way even in me, Lord God.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Work your way."

As you breathe out, pray, "Even in me, Lord God."

* Opening Praise (from Psalm 124):

One: We come today to bless the Lord

Many: Because God does not hand us over in times of trouble.

One: We come today to praise our God

Many: Because truly, the Lord is for us.

One: We come today to lay our lives before the Lord

Many: Because our help is in the name of the Lord.

One: We come today to worship our God,

ALL: The maker of heaven and earth.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 24, © 2017 Spill the Beans Resource Team:

Parent God, we gather here delighted to be your children, sons and daughters loved and welcomed home. Sometimes families can be wonderful, supportive, and friendly. And sometimes families can be horrid, filled with jealousy and dishonesty. Happy families or unhappy families, you love them all, you support them all and guide them all. Relationships are meant to be open, to flow in both giving and receiving directions. Jesus tried to show us this in his lifetime. Bible characters reveal the reality of family living – the ups and downs, good and not so good times. Jesus reveals a way of service, of giving, of allowing the flow to empty him completely. Lord, we are frail and fickle and struggle to be like Jesus. We are sorry for all the times we let you down, for the times we let ourselves down or others down. Forgive us, help us be humble and honest and make amends, make things right. Help us reconcile with our brothers and sisters. So be it. (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"

(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 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ When Isaac had grown old and his eyesight was failing, he summoned his older son Esau and said to him, "My son?" And Esau said, "I'm here." ² He said, "I'm old and don't know when I will die." ³ So now, take your hunting gear, your bow and quiver of arrows, go out to the field, and hunt game for me. ⁴ Make me the delicious food that I love and bring it to me so I can eat. Then I can bless you before I die." ... ¹⁵ Rebekah took her older son Esau's favorite clothes that were in the house with her, and she put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ On his arms and smooth neck she put the hide of young goats, ¹⁷ and the delicious food and the bread she had made she put into her son's hands. ¹⁸ Jacob went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "I'm here. Who are you, my son?" ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I'm Esau your oldest son. I've made what you asked me to. Sit up and eat some of the game so you can bless me." ²⁰ Isaac said to his son, "How could you find this so quickly, my son?" He said, "The LORD your God led me right to it." ²¹ Isaac said to Jacob, "Come here and let me touch you, my son. Are you my son Esau or not?" ²² So Jacob approached his father Isaac, and Isaac touched him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the arms are Esau's arms." ²³ Isaac didn't recognize him because his arms were hairy like Esau's arms, so he blessed him. ... ^{28:10} Jacob left Beer-sheba and set out for Haran. ¹¹ He reached a certain place and spent the night there. When the sun had set, he took one of the stones at that place and put it near his head. Then he lay down there. ¹² He dreamed and saw a raised staircase, its foundation on earth and its top touching the sky, and God's messengers were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ Suddenly the LORD was standing on it and saying, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will become like the dust of the earth; you will spread out to the west, east, north, and south. Every family of earth will be blessed because of you and your descendants. ¹⁵ I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done everything that I have promised you." ¹⁶ When Jacob woke from his sleep, he thought to himself, The LORD is definitely in this place, but I didn't know it. ¹⁷ He was terrified and thought, This sacred place is awesome. It's none other than God's house and the entrance to heaven.

Sermon: "Perfect God, Imperfect Agent" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #475 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by my good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,

Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #735 – I Need Thee Every Hour

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

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.
I need, thee, O I need thee,
Every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior –
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.
I need, thee, O I need thee,
Every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior –
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour; teach me thy will,
And thy rich promises in me fulfill.
I need, thee, O I need thee,
Every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior –
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour, Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.
I need, thee, O I need thee,
Every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior –
I come to 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

* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

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