

## 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: **Astound me with grace, God of all.***

*As you breathe in, pray, "Astound me with grace."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "God of all."*

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.*

\* Invitation to Confession

\* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 15, © 2015 Spill the Beans Resources):

**Merciful God, wonderful and mysterious, generous and patient, we do not understand your unconditional love for us, and yet we are glad of it. You sent your Son among us – to live and to die and to rise again – that we might be reconciled to you. You offer us so much, and too often we are less than grateful. Forgive us, O God, for those times when we fail to appreciate all that you have done for us, all that you are doing for us, and all that you will continue to do for us in the time to come. O God, we long to be faithful servants. Help us in our striving. Comfort us in our grieving. Encourage us in our witnessing. And through it all, guide us in your way, forever and always.** *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray.

**Amen.**

\* God's Promise of Grace

\* Sharing the Peace of Christ

\* 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 – Romans 3:28-30; 5:1-11 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>28</sup> No, not at all, but through the law of faith. We consider that a person is treated as righteous by faith, apart from what is accomplished under the Law. <sup>29</sup> Or is God the God of Jews only? Isn't God the God of Gentiles also? Yes, God is also the God of Gentiles. <sup>30</sup> Since God is one, then the one who makes the circumcised righteous by faith will also make the one who isn't circumcised righteous through faith. ... <sup>5:1</sup> Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. <sup>3</sup> But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> endurance produces character, and character produces hope. <sup>5</sup> This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. <sup>7</sup> It isn't often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. <sup>8</sup> But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> So, now that we have been made righteous by his blood, we can be even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. <sup>10</sup> If we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son while we were still enemies, now that we have been reconciled, how much more certain is it that we will be saved by his life? <sup>11</sup> And not only that: we even take pride in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the one through whom we now have a restored relationship with God.

Sermon: "The Meaning of Grace" – 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.*

## **Where have you seen grace? Where can you show grace?**

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 thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the throne 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 a 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #649 – Amazing Grace

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

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come.  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

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*