

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: **Christ is risen! Tell the story.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Christ is risen!"

As you breathe out, pray, "Tell the story."

* Opening Praise (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 26, © 2018 Spill the Beans Resource Team):

One: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Many: The tomb is empty!

One: What as dead is alive –

ALL: The Christ who was dead is alive!

One: With Mary Magdalene,

Many: We come trembling into the light,

One: Tears of sadness turned to tears of joy

ALL: For Jesus is alive!

Sacred Space for Sacred Story

Throughout Lent this year, we're focusing on Story: on God's story, our own stories, and the ways God's story lifts up and inspires our own. Each week, we're going to spend some time holding sacred space for each next question and phase of putting that story together. It's time you can spend thinking, praying, and writing on your testimony so far or on what may come next. You're also invited to share (if you so choose) what has developed with your story so far.

Easter Sunday: The Road Ahead

Sacred Space: **Where has God taken you since that pivotal moment that you chose? How has it affected your life? Your relationships? Your faith? Your spiritual journey? Your self?**

Prayer

Hymn #455 – Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken

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

Listen to the word that God has spoken;

Listen to the One who is close at hand;

Listen to the voice that began creation;

Listen even if you don't understand.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 26, © 2018 Spill the Beans Resource Team):

Risen God, Holy One, we thought that with Jesus' death on the cross, death was the end of everything. But you raised Jesus from the dead. How, we do not know, but we are so happy that you did! Risen God, we thank you! Jesus lives, today and every day. Jesus is here – among us and within us – right here, right now. How, we do not know, but we are so happy that he is! Risen God, we thank you! Today, as we celebrate the risen Christ, help us to be filled with joy and laughter, glad to worship you, God of life. Let

our rejoicing spread beyond our buildings. Let it be heard in every home. Let it travel abroad – far and wide - until all the earth is filled with your glory. Love has conquered death. Indeed, love wins. So be it.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)

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

Amen.

* God's Promise of Grace

* Song of Peace #466 – Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace (sing through 3 times)

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

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Allelu - ia!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer to Open Minds and Hearts

Scripture reading – John 20:1-18 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." ³ Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. ⁴ They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. ⁵ Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. ⁶ Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. ⁷ He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. ⁸ Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying. ¹¹ Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. ¹³ The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." ¹⁴ As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

Sermon: "Testimony is Invitational" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #241 – Woman, Weeping in the Garden

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

Woman, weeping in the garden
Who has pushed the stone aside?
Who has taken Jesus' body,
Jesus Christ the crucified?

Woman, waiting in the garden,
After men have come and gone,
After angels give their witness,
Silently you watch the dawn.

Woman, walking in the garden,

Jesus takes you by surprise;
When the gardener calls you, "Mary!"
Faith and joy meet in your eyes.

Woman, weeping in the garden,
Weep for joy, for you have seen
Jesus, the Messiah, risen;
Christ, of whom the prophets dream.

Woman, dancing from the garden,
Find the others and proclaim
Christ is risen as he promised;
Tell the world he knew your name!

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 #246 – Christ Is Alive!

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

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.

The cross stands empty to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring.

Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
To distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war
Where color, scorn, or wealth divine,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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*