

## 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: Let your justice roll down, Ever-Flowing God.**

*As you breathe in, pray, "Let your justice roll down."*

*As you breathe out, pray, "Ever-Flowing 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 (from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press):

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love. We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.** *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

In the righteous 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"

(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 – Amos 5:18-24 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

<sup>18</sup> Doom to those who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup> as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or sought refuge in a house, rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup> Isn't the day of the LORD darkness, not light; all dark with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup> I hate, I reject your festivals; I don't enjoy your joyous assemblies. <sup>22</sup> If you bring me your entirely burned offerings and gifts of food— I won't be pleased; I won't even look at your offerings of well-fed animals. <sup>23</sup> Take away the noise of your songs; I won't listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Sermon: "Righteous? Distractions" – 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 distracts us from working for God's justice?

Hymn #766 – The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

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

The church of Christ cannot be bound  
By walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found,  
There can the church be known.

True faith will open up the door  
And step into the street.  
True service will seek out the poor  
And ask to wash their feet.

True love will not sit idly by  
When justice is denied.  
True mercy hears the homeless cry  
And welcomes them inside.

If what we have we freely share  
To meet our neighbor's need,  
Then we extend the Spirit's care  
Through every selfless deed.

The church of Christ cannot be bound  
By walls of wood or stone.  
Where charity and love are found,  
There can the church be known.

## 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 #769 – For Everyone Born (skip verse 4)  
(from *Glory to God*, © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press)

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
For everyone born, clean water and bread,  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
For everyone born, a star overhead,  
    And God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice  
    And joy, compassion and peace:  
    Yes, God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice,  
    Justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
Revising the roles, deciding the share,  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
For woman and man, a system that's fair,  
    And God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice  
    And joy, compassion and peace:  
    Yes, God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice,  
    Justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
For young and for old, the right to belong,  
    And God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice  
    And joy, compassion and peace:  
    Yes, God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice,  
    Justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
To live without fear, and simply to be,  
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
For everyone born, the right to be free,  
    And God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice  
    And joy, compassion and peace:  
    Yes, God will delight  
    When we are creators of justice,  
    Justice and joy!

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*