

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: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Lord, in your mercy."

As you breathe out, pray, "Hear our prayers."

* Opening Praise (based on Psalm 99):

One: With our words, our prayers, and our praise,

Many: We cry out to the Lord!

One: With our hearts, our spirits, and our lives,

Many: We cry out to the Lord!

One: We magnify the Lord our God.

Many: God is holy!

One: We exalt the Lord our God.

Many: God is gracious!

One: We worship the Lord our God.

Many: God is merciful!

ALL: Truly, the Lord our God is holy!

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness. *(Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)*

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and redeemer, 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.**

“I No Longer Pray for Peace” by Ann Weems
written for Ash Wednesday 2003

Scripture reading – Psalm 31 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ I take refuge in you, Lord. Please never let me be put to shame. Rescue me by your righteousness! ² Listen closely to me! Deliver me quickly; be a rock that protects me; be a strong fortress that saves me! ³ You are definitely my rock and my fortress. Guide me and lead me for the sake of your good name! ⁴ Get me out of this net that’s been set for me because you are my protective fortress. ⁵ I entrust my spirit into your hands; you, Lord, God of faithfulness — you have saved me. ⁶ I hate those who embrace what is completely worthless. I myself trust the Lord. ⁷ I rejoice and celebrate in your faithful love because you saw my suffering — you were intimately acquainted with my deep distress. ⁸ You didn’t hand me over to the enemy, but set my feet in wide-open spaces. ⁹ Have mercy on me, Lord, because I’m depressed. My vision fails because of my grief, as do my spirit and my body. ¹⁰ My life is consumed with sadness; my years are consumed with groaning. Strength fails me because of my suffering; my bones dry up. ¹¹ I’m a joke to all my enemies, still worse to my neighbors. I scare my friends, and whoever sees me in the street runs away! ¹² I am forgotten, like I’m dead, completely out of mind; I am like a piece of pottery, destroyed. ¹³ Yes, I’ve heard all the gossiping, terror all around; so many gang up together against me, they plan to take my life! ¹⁴ But me? I trust you, Lord! I affirm, “You are my God.” ¹⁵ My future is in your hands. Don’t hand me over to my enemies, to all who are out to get me! ¹⁶ Shine your face on your servant; save me by your faithful love! ¹⁷ Lord, don’t let me be put to shame because I have cried out to you. Let the wicked be put to shame; let them be silenced in death’s domain! ¹⁸ Let their lying lips be shut up whenever they speak arrogantly against the righteous with pride and contempt! ¹⁹ How great is the goodness that you’ve reserved for those who honor you, that you commit to those who take refuge in you — in the sight of everyone! ²⁰ You hide them in the shelter of your wings, safe from human scheming. You conceal them in a shelter, safe from accusing tongues. ²¹ Bless the Lord, because he has wondrously revealed his faithful love to me when I was like a city under siege! ²² When I was panicked, I said, “I’m cut off from your eyes!” But you heard my request for mercy when I cried out to you for help. ²³ All you who are faithful, love the Lord! The Lord protects those who are loyal, but he pays the proud back to the fullest degree. ²⁴ All you who wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage.

Hymn #90 – Wait for the Lord (sing through 5 times)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

Wait for the Lord
Whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord.
Be strong! Take heart.

“A Blessing for Ukraine” by Kate Bowler:

God, the unthinkable has happened. Swiftly, relentlessly, by stealth and through open destruction, the peace and beauty of the ordinary has been shattered in a day. O God of justice and might, we call to you to come and bring this suffering to an end. Comfort these trembling hearts. Shield the vulnerable. Strengthen those with the resources and the resolve to protect what they love in the face of such overwhelming force. Grant wisdom to the nations of our world, to our leaders, and to us, to grasp the unfathomable, to see evil in its true light, and come against it unflinchingly. Amen.

Hymn #340 – This Is My Song
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:
Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations:
Myself I give thee; let thy will be done

Prayer of Lament (from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press)

First response:

Pastor: Make us one body;

ALL: Reconcile all people.

Sung response: #551 – Lord, Have Mercy

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

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

At the end of each petition:

Pastor: God of justice,

ALL: Save your world.

Holding Space for All Your Prayers

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.**

Scripture reading – Matthew 25:31-46 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

³¹ “Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left. ³⁴ “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. ³⁵ I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ “Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ ⁴⁴ “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ ⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”

Hymn #471 – O Lord, Hear My Prayer (sing through 3 times)
(from *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

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

* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

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